MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 FEBRUARY 1983

Israel

"I do not plan and I do not intend to enter politics," President Yitzhaq Navon declared in an announcement broadcast by IDF Radio. According to THE JERUSALEM POST, neither the Likud nor the Alignment take Navon's decision seriously and are "convinced" that he will seek to lead the Alignment during the next elections.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- The subcommittees at Khaldah held intensive discussions on details of agenda items and made progress toward bridging gaps between the Israeli and Lebanese viewpoints, according to Israeli and Lebanese official statements issued at the end of the 11th round of talks and broadcast by Jerusalem and Beirut radios. The three subcommittees began further talks at Netanya, Israel, on 1 February, Jerusalem radio noted. The items on their agenda are: definition of the security strip, border crossing points, and Israeli-Lebanese commercial and economic ties.

During the Khaldah talks progress was made on military matters, especially security arrangements, Beirut radio reported. The Lebanese delegation again rejected Israel's proposals for early warning stations and reiterated Lebanon's support for the U.S. role in the talks, the radio said citing an official source. The Israeli delegation issued a press statement affirming that "progress could have been made in the talks" if Lebanon had not surrendered to Arab pressure against the normalization of Israeli-Lebanese relations, Jerusalem radio reported. Lebanon's surrender to Arab pressure and dictates could drag Lebanon toward further instability and violence, the statement warned.

Security Situation -- Druze-Christian clashes erupted in and around 'Alayh on 31 January and continued early on 1 February, according to Beirut radio and other local radios. In another development the IDF spokesman denied a 1 February Voice of Lebanon radio report that a mechanized Israeli force had attempted to enter Hayy as-Sullum in southern Beirut by penetrating U.S. Marine lines. According to Jerusalem radio, the IDF spokesman affirmed that the Israelis were "under no circumstances" crossing the railway line into the multinational force area. The Voice of Lebanon subsequently reported that the Israeli unit withdrew after approaching the U.S. positions.

Reporting on the Al-Biqa' situation, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said that Syrian forces in the valley are on maximum alert and that theIDF has continued to strengthen its positions with additional fortifications and heavy tanks.

PLO

'Arafat Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tunis following his visit to the YAR and is expected to meet with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, who is currently there on an official visit, according to TAP. PLO Executive Committee members and leaders of the eight PLO factions will meet in Algiers on 10 February to draft a report on PLO strategy which will be submitted to the PNC session on 14 February, Radio Monte Carlo reported quoting a PLO official. 'Arafat will ask that the PNC elect the PLO Executive Committee chairman instead of the Executive Committee itself, the radio added citing unconfirmed reports in Damascus.

Arab Committee Participation -- PNC Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Khalid al-Hasan will represent the PLO in the Arab seven-member committee during its visit to London, INA announced. The director of the PLO office in Morocco, Ibrahim as-Sus, said the British Government told Al-Hasan in Tunis that it approved his participation in the committee's talks with British officials, INA added.

Officials on Lebanon, Syria, Internal Policy -- The PLO Executive Committee adopted decisions to confront "illegitimate and unjust" Lebanese measures against the Palestinians and warned Lebanese authorities about the "possible consequences" if the Lebanese Army continues to arrest Palestinians, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported citing remarks by a PLO spokesman. Meanwhile, Fatah Central Committtee member Salah Khalaf urged the Lebanese Government to treat the Palestinians the same way it treats the citizens of any Arab country, the London paper AL-HAWADITH reported in an interview with Khalaf. He added that Lebanon will no longer be the scene of PLO military actions, but that in his view Lebanon should be the PLO center for the dissemination of political information. Khalaf called for a calm Syrian-Palestinian dialogue in the interest of Syria and the Palestinian cause. In other remarks the PFLP representative on the PLO Executive Committee, Ahmad al-Yamani, affirmed that Syria has always been the "springboard" for the Liberation of Palestine, Damascus radio reported citing Al-Yamani's remarks to a SANA correspondent. He added that the primary task is to build Palestinian national unity and deepen the militant cohesion between Syria and the Palestinian resistance. Al-Yamani declared that any leadership that tries to deviate from the objectives of the Palestinian struggle will be rejected and "brought down" by the people, the radio noted.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi stressed Iran's "neither East nor West" policy during a meeting with PRC Foreign Ministry adviser He Ying although he said Iran hopes to expand relations with the PRC, IRNA reported. In another development Syria's Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur are expected to visit Tehran to deliver a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President 'Ali Khamene'i, according to Damascus radio.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Musavi stated that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's declared willingness to come to Iran and negotiate with Ayatollah Khomeyni on ending the war is aimed at deceiving international public opinion, IRNA noted.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MONTE CARLO: PALESTINIAN LEADERS TO MEET IN ALGIERS

JN010649 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] A PLO official has told REUTER that Palestinian leaders will hold an extraordinary session in Algiers on 10 February prior to the convocation of the PNC, the Palestinian parliament, on 14 February. In addition to the PLO Executive Committee members, the meeting will be attended by leaders of the eight PLO organizations. The conferees will draft a report on the PLO's forthcoming strategy to be submitted to the PNC.

According to thus far unconfirmed reports circulating in Damascus, PLO leader Yasir Arafat will demand that the PNC elect the PLO Executive Committee chairman instead of the Executive Committee itself, thus strengthening 'Arafat's powers.

KHALID AL-HASAN NAMED FOR SEVEN-MEMBER COMMITTEE

JN311808 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Rabat, 31 Jan (INA) -- The INA correspondent here has learned that Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the PNC's foreign relations committee, will represent the PLO in the Arab seven-member committee during its visit to the British capital.

Abu Marwan, the director of the PLO office in Rabat, informed the INA correspondent that the British Government told Khalid al-Hasan in Tunis that it approved his participation in the seven-member committee's talks with British officials. Abu Marwan denied any change in the date of the committee's visit to London, which has been set for 7 February.

STRENGTH OF PLO MILITARY FORCES DEFENDED

Brigadier Ahmad 'Afnah

LD301436 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Jan (KUNA) -- In a press statement published here today, the head of the PLO military operations room. Brigadier Ahmad 'Afnah, alias Abu al-Mu'tasim, expressed his belief that Israel would not attack the Lebanese Al-Biqa' valley because of Syria's ties with the Soviet Union through a treaty of friendship. He told Kuwait's AL-QABAS that there were a number of political and military reasons which would prevent Israel from launching an attack on the Palestinian resistance forces and the Syrian forces in Al-Biqa'. He said that the political reasons involved "the direct proximity of Al-Biqa' to Syrian territory and Syria's link with the Soviet Union by means of a friendship treaty that could lead to friction between the two major powers."

He added: "As for the military reasons, they were the result of the Israeli forces' failure to achieve their plans in Lebanon within a fixed period, twice that period, or even four times that period, a matter which led to a breakdown in the Israeli military machine and to the weakening of the morale of soldiers and commanders. This in turn led the political leadership to try to achieve results through different means."

He described the general military condition of the Palestinian resistance forces at present as very satisfactory. He said: "The Palestinian forces have reached a high level of proficiency since leaving Beirut. Components of our forces, such as the air force, which were not operational have now been able to practice their work in many regions."

He also described Syrian and Palestinian military readiness in Al-Biqa' as good. He said: "We do not fight with heavy weapons in Al-Biqa'. Instead we use medium and light weapons, which have proved to be more effective than other weapons."

Brig 'Afnah said: "Regarding Palestinian forces which are outside Lebanon, they have become the forces of the Palestinian revolution. As for the forces in Lebanon itself, we have formed military grids with each grid receiving all that it needs from the PLO, such as food, clothing, and provisions. Concerning the operational aspect, each platoon has the right to plan its operations through its military machinery."

He added that the Palestinian forces which left Beirut in September for a number of Arab countries "will not remain forever" in those countries. "When there is an opportunity to be in touch with the occupied territory, the period of transferring these forces will be very short."

Regarding Palestinian fedayeen operations in the occupied territory, Abu al-Mu'tasim said: "Work has now begun on reorganizing operations inside the occupied land. The decision by the Supreme Military Council stresses that operations will be carried out in the occupied land." He stressed that military action "will not cease until a solution to the Palestine question and the liberation of the land is achieved." However, he added, "armed struggle alone cannot achieve victory; alongside it there must be political struggle to achieve our aims."

The Palestinian military official criticized a statement issued by five Palestinian factions in Tripoli this month. He said that there were no justifications for it. He added: "Introducing Libya into the arena also has no justification."

FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH Editorial

LD301218 Kuwait KUNA in English 1124 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Nicosia, Jan 30 (KUNA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization this week refuted rumors that the PLO is militarily weak and said that the PLO's efficiency in opposing both Zionism and imperialism is growing. In a Palestinian magazine "FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH" edtorial, rumors claiming that Palestinian military strength has deteriorated following the battle of Beirut were dispelled.

The PLO official magazine noted that this week's celebrations in Aden marking the 28th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution showed the invalidity of the rumors and highlighted the development of the Palestinian forces since the war with all their extraordinary fighting experience. "They were the only Arab force which respected military honor and courageously fought the longest Arab-Israeli war," the paper said.

Rumors that the PLO military weakness has led to concess ons by the PLO leadership in regard to relations with Jordan and the endorsement of the Fes summit resolutions were also refuted by the paper.

The most recent manifestation that the PLO is lacking in military preparedness came in the so-called "conference of Palestinian organizations" held in the Libyan capital in the middle of the month. But the attempts to exploit some Palestinian groups submissive to Arab regimes failed. "These groups cannot even encourage their own bases of support to deviate from the Palestinian unanimous opinion regarding independent national decision-making," the editorial stated.

Furthermore, the paper called on the Arabs to direct their concern toward escalating the conformation against the Israeli enemy rather than trying to dominate the Palestinian arena despite widescale Palestinian rejection of such attempts.

The editorial noted that these same forces are attempting to disrupt internal Palestinian unity by criticizing the meeting that Yasir 'Arafat held with a delegation from the Israel-Palestinian peace council.

'Arafat described the meeting in a press conference in Aden on January 25 as "in accordance with the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council which call for the development and deepening of relations with Jewish democratic forces."

The editorial stated that in the wake of the meeting, part of the Israeli public will look at the PLO differently from the view presented by Begin and the Israeli Labor Party.

'Arafat reiterated his position in a recent interview with the Arab magazine "KOL AL-ARAB". He rejected "the logic that demands that the PLO recognize Israel. It is unfair to demand that the victim recognize his murderer."

The editorial concluded by stating that some enemies of the Palestinians are now convinced of the futility in their attempts to destroy Palestinian unity. "The PLO's efficiency in opposing both Zionism and imperialism is growing. Through its struggle, the PLO practices a highly developed form of democracy. PLO policy will be endorsed by the PNC meeting in Algiers and this will be the strongest shield in protecting Palestinian patriotism and independent Palestinian decision-making."

PLO'S QADDUMI ON LEADERSHIP MEETINGS, STRUGGLE

LD311441 Kuwait KUNA in English 1020 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 31 (KUNA) -- The head of the PLO POlitical Department, Faruq Qaddumi, arrived here Sunday night from Riyadh where he attended meetings between the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the Saudi leaders. On arrival, Qaddumi told reporters that the Palestinian leadership meetings held last week in Aden which grouped the different Palestinian commando organizations had been convened with the aim of fostering and enhancing the national unity and to prepare for the upcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council scheduled to be held in Algiers February 14.

Qaddumi said that the meeting and discussions among the Palestinian leadership had concentrated on finding a joint framework for the Palestinian revolution's future stands and the policy the PLO should adopt toward various issues, with the aim of achieving more recognition for the PLO and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Qaddumi disclosed that 'Arafat would soon meet with the Lebanese Premier Shafiq al-Wazzan in Tunis to discuss bilateral issues and the Palestinian presence in Lebanon following the Israeli invasion of that Arab country.

As for the resolution adopted by Aden meetings on escalating the military operations inside the occupied territories, Qaddumi said it is the responsibility of the military leaders to implement that decision.

He added that the Palestinian revolution presently has the capabilities and the facilities which were not available at the beginning of its armed struggle. "Therefore, there is no difficulties in carrying out such a resolution."

Qaddumi pledged that the Palestinian revolution would continue its operations against the Zionist occupation forces in Lebanon and would escalate attacks against Israeli targets in the occupied territories.

'ISAM AS-SARTAWI INTERVIEW WITH RADIO MONTE CARLO

JN282000 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Interview with 'Isam as-Sartawi, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, by Antoine Nawfal, Radio Monte Carlo news director, carried within "It Happened Tomorrow" program -- date and place not given, recorded]

[Text] [Question] 'Isam as-Sartawi, welcome to this program. You seem to be taking a unique stand, but what you say openly is sometimes being thought secretly. You are taking a unique stand within the PLO and toward Israel, or toward some Israelis. You were the first to establish contacts with the Israeli peace movement. We will be discussing 'Arafat's meeting with some Israeli peace movement members. However, first I would like you to talk about the POW issue and the contacts which took place over it. Were these official or unofficial contacts? What is the story?

[Answer] I do not want to talk very long about being unique because, in my view, it is irrelevent and does not apply. My stand is that of the PLO in accordance with the PLO's decisions. It is to promote my own convictions concerning our cause and to realize our national rights.

As for the POW issue, I would like to point out that some time ago the Israeli Government entrusted one of the Israeli peace council members, Lova Eliav to contact our friend Bruno Kriesky and ask him to use his good offices with the PLO and the Syrian Government to discuss the POW issue. Kriesky sent his personal representative to Damascus where he held several contacts and discussed the issue of the bodies of the Israeli soldiers held by our Syrian brothers. Accordingly, some of the Syrian fishermen held by the Israeli authorities were released. In other words, the problem of the dialogue with the Syrian brothers made great progress. At the same time, we were contacted, and the issue of the exchange of POW's between us and the Israelis through our friend Kriesky was discussed. The PLO agreed to form a special committee to deal with the POW's. Recently an official PLO delegation was in Vienna to discuss the details of the exchange with Austrian authorities. It must be clear that this was a technical process which had no political significance despite certain attempts to clothe it in political garb.

[Question] Why do you deny such political garb? Do you believe the contacts did not have an official form?

[Answer] I do not understand why some Israeli and U.S. circles attempted to surround me with a halo because of this operation. NEWSWEEK published the news, which Israeli Government sources had leaked, especially on sending Lova Eliav, who is a peace council member and who had won the Kriesky peace price. It seems that Israeli circles wanted to give the impression that something was going on. This was not true.

[Question] Yet Israel and Damascus are protesting and even condemning the recent meeting between the Israeli peace movement and Yasir 'Arafat.

[Answer] We must clearly distinguish between the meeting which took place with the Israeli peace movement's representatives, led by General Peled, and the exchange of POW's. These are two separate issues. The exchange of POW's is a technical process, while the meeting is a political stand primarily stemming from the PLO's official position.

[Question] Why was one of these processes highlighted and the other objected to?

[Answer] I said that meeting took place in accordance with the grounds of the official and declared Palestinian political decision which was initiated in 1977. But as for the protests and criticism of this step, this an issue that has no connection with the legitimacy of the decisions that are being made under various slogans. Here we must recall that the Israeli peace movement, during the Lebanon war, adopted stands that should be put on record. It protested, demonstrated, and instigated the Israeli soldiers and fighters to desert and withdraw from the battle. Tens of thousands first demonstrated, then hundreds of thousands.

This role played by the peace movement, at a time when we were alone fighting in Beirut and Lebanon, is worthy of praise and admiration. Those who protest our recent meeting with the peace movement must remember that it was this movement solely which supported us when we were subject to massacre and annihilation. Once again, we say that that those who fought alone in Lebanon have every right to contact and reach an understanding with anyone they wish. But he who failed to fight has no right to tell those who fought with whom they should or should not contact.

[Question] What is the advantage of contacting the peace movement, although this contact would have every limited effect in Israel and since it is today rejected on the Arab level or by some Arab sides?

[Answer] First, let me say that the movement which staged a demonstration with 400,000 present is not small. Moreover, I cannot tell what you based your statement on when you said that the peace movement is rejected on the Arab level. If some Arab sides have stands that contradict the peace movement, they are not based on a real and scientific understanding of the nature of struggle or that of the conflicting forces in our region or of our confrontation capabilities. The role being played by the peace movement and the development of the capabilities of this movement in the face of the Arab impotence, which we have seen and felt, is an extremely important issue. We have to develop our capabilities, those of military confrontation, as has been affirmed by many Arab leaders and presidents. These limited capabilities dictate that we must search for alternative methods of confrontation to beef up our limited military capabilities.

The role being played by the peace movement in this field is big, and we predicted it in past years. For many years we have been predicting and affirming the importance of this role in the face of those who call us traitors. Events came to show us that amid Lebanon's battle and during the massacre, this movement assumed its basic and major role.

We want to recall what we previously said; We hope that, through the development and growth of this movement, a third force will develop within the Israeli institution of confront the warmongers and the ruling Israeli forces which call for balkanizing the Arab homeland and for expanding to the oilfields. This is what we warned of 2 years ago over this microphone.

[Question] The objective of contacts with the peace movement will be political more than military. You have explained some stands which this movement can adopt, but, on the political level, can these contacts lead to contacts with the Israeli Government and to the issue of recognition, which is the basic problem?

[Answer] As is well known, the peace movement is part of the opposition. If we go back to the [Israeli] Government's stand on the meeting between Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and General Peled, we see that the government is moving ahead to bring these men [Peled, Avneri, Arnun] to trial. Therefore, we can definitely say that there is no connection whatsoever between the peace movement and the Israeli Government, and under no circumstances would these men be exploited by either a Likud or a Labor government. Therefore, we are talking about a special case and an independent, distinguished movement which would develop by means of objective circumstances that mainly depend on its structure and our capabilities of beefing up its role inside Israel through our forces there, and specifically through the Palestinian citizens in Israel.

[Question] What about the recognition of Israel? Will it be synchronized or unilateral recognition? Who will recognize whom?

[Answer] The issue of recognition is very complicated, sensitive, and important. Actually, we have to differentiate between two kinds of recognition. First, there is recognition as defined by international law, which says that recognition is a contractual agreement between two equal parties to arrange the nature of relations between them and replace their hostile relations with friendly ones. This means that recognition from the legal point of view is an issue that follows successful negotiations and not an issue that precedes negotiations as an advance condition.

Second, there is acceptance of the principle of the other party's existance. What is being proposed to us now by the world and what we are repeatedly being asked to do is not to recognize Israel.

[Question] Before entering our studio you told me that the world should recognize the PLO and the PLO should recognize Israel. You also said the PLO and the Arab brothers should first recognize the PLO as sole legitimate representative. Can you explain all these recognitions?

[Answer] Once again I say that we must not mix subjects and definitions that are completely different from each other. At the top of our priorities is the need for we in the PLO to complete our recognition by the world. Had we been recognized by the world and by the United States at the beginning of June, Israel would have not dared invade Lebanon and announce that its objective was to slaughter us.

[Question] Could you have gained recongition at that time?

[Answer] Our duty was and still is to exert every possible effort to complete the world's recognition of us. We have to tackle this issue of utmost importance. Furthermore, we have to seriously consider methods that may lead us to this recognition.

[Question] My question was: Was it possible at that time for the United States to recognize the PLO? Were the necessary requirements for this recognition available then? Are these requirements not available nowadays?

[Answer] In my assessment the circumstances of the political action were much better when we were in Lebanon. However, this does not mean that we will give up hope and stop the political struggle. It is very significant for us to continue our struggle in order to wrest our recognition by the world. This forces us to deal seriously with and not avoid the formulas the world proposes to us.

Here we come to the issue of recogntion we mentioned at the beginning of our talk. As I said earlier, the world does not ask us to recognize Israel in advance. We are unable to recognize Israel. The PLO is unable legally to recognize Israel because recognition is a condition of sovereignty which the PLO does not possess. Furthermore, and in light of what I have mentioned, recognition remains an issue that follows successful negotiations and cannot be a prerequisite for such negotiations. What the world asks us to do is something completely different. The world asks: Do we in the PLO accept Isarel's existance or not? This is the crux of what we are being asked. This is the Western world's condition for recognizing us. We have to deal with this issue thoroughly. If we can answer this demand without making any sacrifice or relinquishing any of our rights, then it is our duty to do so and gain this recognition.

In fact, if we go back to our decisions, the decisions of our national councils, we will see a series of stands and decisions which accept rather than deny such existence. The decision to establish the Palestinian state on any part of the Palestinian soil that may be liberated or evacuated by Israel is commensurate with this concept. The decision to open a dialogue with Israeli progressive and democratic forces is also in tune with this concept. The Baghdad summit resolution calling for a just and durable peace in the Middle East, based on Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, is also based on this concept. What is more important than all this is that, at its last session, the PNC unanimously approved Brezhnev's initiative, which says the following and I am reading the text from the official bulletin issued by the CPSU on this subject. This bulletin says: As for the essence of the issue, we are certain, as we were in the past, that real peace in the Middle East requires the elimination of the Israeli occupation from all the Arab territories usurped since 1967 and the championing of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their state. The safety and sovereignty of every state in the region, including Israel, must be guaranteed.

These are the main principles. This is an official text which was unanimously approved by the PNC. Therefore, the PLO through its highest official legitimate institutions, has approved this. This is what the world has demanded of us. After paying the price, why did we refuse to receive our goods? Why do not we take this decision to the United States and say: Here, we have accepted the existence of Israel through the highest legislative Palestinian body. Instead of waging a battle with Mrs Thatcher, we should tell her: We have presented such a stand. Give us full recognition. This is an issue which is presented to us from the Palestinian viewpoint. It is an urgent issue. The Palestinian leadership, therefore, must go and receive its goods.

[Question] But why is this stand not being presented to the United States? Who is hindering it?

[Answer] Here we come to our own contradictions. Some of our factions, for reasons that have no relation to our strategic stand, have taken stands outbidding the PLO political line and moves, forgetting that these were official decisions, that they themselves approved these decisions. These internal problems have chained us. There were outside pressures which also chained us and prevented us from facing the world clearly and frankly.

[Question] You are referring to the recent Tripoli declaration?

[Answer] I am not referring to the Tripoli declaration specifically because it is a subsequent issue. I am speaking about the chains which limited our moves during the period which preceded the Lebanese massacres and invasion. These problems have afflicted Palestinian action -- problems of inter-Palestinian differences. We decide on something and behave in the opposite fashion.

[Question] These problems are still going on and appeared in the Tripoli declaration.

[Answer] In fact, we hoped that the tragic experience of the Palestinians and the Arabs in Lebanon, the occupation of a dear part of the Arab nation by Israel, the butchering of tens of thousands of our Palestinian and Lebanese people in Lebanon, and the destruction of southern Lebanon would make us wake up and revise the path of defeat which led to such results. Unfortunately, we must say that the path of defeat which paved the way for the Lebanese tragedy is still living in the minds of some of our brothers.

The Tripoli summit -- what is the significance of the recent Tripoli meeting? Does it not mean the continuation of the course of defeatism? Does it not mean the continuation of the pressures that contributed to causing the tragedy of Lebanon? Actually, it means all of this. Moreover, it means other things. It means, first and foremost, that the brothers who took part in this meeting and who are PLO officials have revoked the notion that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative. Why did they meet in Tripoli if they have all the PLO institutions? They are members of the PLO Executive Committee, in the PLO Central Council, and in the PNC. Why should there be frameworks other than those of the PLO for discussing the affairs of the issue far from the other primary PLO sides?

These are questions we are raising with bitterness because at the time when we are in dire need to consolidate our (?national) unity and to absorb the lessons of the Lebanon's tragedy and find radical solutions to these lessons, we are moving in directions which might sow sedition and entrench the course of defeatism and its results.

[Question] But the Tripoli meeting leads us to talk about relations with Jordan. Some Palestinian factions apparently object to these relations while others favor them.

[Answer] Our relations with Jordan cannot be ignored. Our people live on the two banks of the [Jordan] river. Our kinfolk live on the East and West Banks. Our roots and heritage are the same. All of these are matters that must exist in our memories constantly.

Within the context of the political move, the PNC adopted a lengthy series of decisions all of which affirm the profound relationship between us and Jordan and, also, all of which talk about the need to develop this relationship. Actually, the development of events, particularly those which took place in Lebanon, irrefutably affirmed the importance of setting up advanced relations of unity ['ilaqatin wahdawiyatan mutaqadimah] with the brothers in Jordan. However, this at any rate does not mean relinquishing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people, or the PLO's struggle to attain this objective. The establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state in Palestine -- on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip -- is a basic condition, not only for us but also for the (?safety) of Jordan. The PLO, which is independent and which can move politically and freely, is alone capable of building this state, which is necessarily the first defense line of Amman. There can be no Jordan without Palestine; hence the formula that has been agreed upon is primarily based on the establishment of a Palestinian state which will exercise its right to set up special relations of unity with Jordan.

[Question] The Palestinian move toward the United States has thus been confined to the Arab move conducted by the Arab seven-member committee. Today some people believe that the PLO will commission Jordan with an important role toward contacting the United States in terms of negotiations.

[Answer] Actually, the PLO move to wrest world recognition basically means its move to wrest the right to represent the Palestinian people in any future negotiations aimed at solving the problem. Our basic problem is how to ensure we gain this right.

The world has set certain conditions regarding recognition of the PLO. Recognition, as is obvious, is not a decorative medal but an important frame with which and through which we must move to bring about our rights. As for the issue of recognition, it means that we become the party to speak in the name of the cause.

In this stage we face two options related to any future political moves: either we negotiate as the representative of our own cause or authorize some other party to do so. The U.S. stance is clear through the Reagan plan and his earlier speeches. This stance calls on us to authorize Jordan to negotiate. Here is a big danger for us and Jordan as well. Any acceptance of this U.S. stance and any authorization given to Jordan is a real threat to the Jordanians more than to the Palestinians. Sharon's statements about Israel's intentions and courteous desires in Jordan are clear. Israel's designs to solve the Palestinian issue within the framework of a Palestinian state in Jordan are also clear. Hence both the Jordanians and the Palestinians must be causious and see that they do not under any circumstances relinquish the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people. Any attempt to disavow this reality and any attempt to choose any other method, ignoring this basic issue, will certainly be harmful to all of us.

So, priority and all attention must be given to the PLO's role in wresting the world's recognition of it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This should be the ground on which negotiations can be held. Within this framework, one must concentrate on the strong and distinguished relations between the PLO and Jordan, and not outside this framework. This means that any authorization for Jordan to play the role of a negotiator on behalf of the Palestinian people is a grave threat we have to avoid and prevent by any means.

[Question] What cards do the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat in particular now hold? Does he have any cards left?

[Answer] We have to distinguish here between two issues: the beginning of political negotiations to achieve a possible solution and the negotiations' ability to achieve specific objectives. In order to begin the negotiations, we have to complete the conditions for world recognition of the PLO. We have to act on the basis of this particular point. Yet, even if the whole world recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians and if the superpowers agree to PLO participation in any efforts to bring about peace in the region, the question remains whether Israel will agree to this or not. The answer is certainly no. Israel, led by the Likud, categorically rejects PLO participation under any form or title in any proposed solution in the region. Israel's Labor Party takes the same stand. Thus, under the current political balance now existing in Israel, the future looks very gloomy for us. We say gloomy because we have set aside [tajawazna] the military option. We as an Arab nation have admitted that we are incapable of adopting the military option in this stage. Therefore, we are concentrating on political action and struggle.

Within the framework of the political struggle and as long as the Likud government remains in office, the possibilities of working out a political program or political negotiations leading to a solution do not exist.

[Question] What is the solution then? That is my question.

[Answer] As we said in the past, we have to introduce radical and objective changes in this Israeli society. We started our contacts with the peace movement and they were materialized by the recent meeting that took place between Brother Abu 'Ammar and representatives of the peace movement. All of these contacts are aimed at beefing up the position of this movement inside Israel and at enabling it at a subsequent stage to attain the weight that would enable it to introduce political changes. A third force can be built inside Israel through the forces of the peace movement and a through a clear-cut political program to be adopted by the PLO and with the participation of the Arab nation. Yes, we can develop this stand and consolidate the position of these forces inside Israel.

There is no doubt that the Fes summit resolutions and the PLO's positive steps, and specifically those of Brother Abu 'Ammar, are all moving in this direction and are entrenching this basic strategy which we sincerely hope our brothers in the Arab homeland will realize and will join us in consolidating.

[Question] The PNC will soon meet in Algiers. The debates will undoubtedly be acrimonous. This meeting could be an opportunity to introduce changes, because the changes seem not to cover the Israeli society alone but they must also cover the Palestinian society. We know there is a divergence in views over the stands. How do you envisage the PNC work in Algiers and will the PNC meet as scheduled?

[Answer] No doubt the PNC meeting will be held at a stage characterized with extreme sensitivity. First, there was the Lebanon tragedy -- an issue before which the PNC must pause for a long time. True, imperialism, Zionism, and Israel are our enemy. Likewise, it is true that they seek to inflict the gravest damage on us. But we ask ourselves the following question: Have we committed mistakes and have we carried out practices that should have not been made because they contributed to creating what has taken place? It is our duty to review the past; this is a basic duty.

For example, a few months before the aggression against Lebanon and at a time when Brother Abu 'Ammar was waging a tremendous struggle to convince all sides of the need to abide by the cease-fire decision, certain Palestinian sides were proposing theories to violate the cease-fire and were saying in official statements that they could defeat the Israeli army and that it was our duty to start the battle with Israel. They even said that the Israeli army hesitated in invading Lebanon because of its fear of us. We must pause in front of these theories. Those who formed these theories have unintentionally contributed to erupting the situation.

[Question] After all this, is the PLO actually the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people? Also, how do you envisage the future of the PLO?

[Answer] The PLO is the greatest accomplishment ever made by the Palestinian people in their recent years of struggle. The occupation of Palestine, the establishment of the State of Israel, and the dismemberment of the remaining parts of Palestine have all been severe blows to the Palestinian people. The reconstruction of their institution was a very difficult task which was performed by their struggling forces, led by the Fatah movement when it ignited the revolution and the armed struggle. This paved the way for reconstructing the Palestinian people's political institution.

The PLO is a legitimate representative inasmuch as it represents the Palestinian people's desires and interest; hence it is the sole legitimate representative. This commits the PLO to definite duties and commitments. First, it entrusts it with the ability to contain all the views within it. We do not want the PLO to be only a command for the Palestinians in diaspora; we want it to produce a method through which our kinfolk now under occupation can express themselves. In other words, the tragedies of the past should not be repeated, particularly the circumstances in which certain organizations used to issue death sentences against some leaders operating inside the occupied homeland, as was the case with Brothers Ilyas Frayj and Rashad ash-Shawwa when they dared to propose their political points of view. The PLO is asked to contain all the directions and trends. The brothers in the various Palestinian organizations are asked to admit first that the PLO is their sole legitimate representative in order to avoid such practices as the recent Tripoli conference, which canceled Palestinian national unity and belittled the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people.

[Question] What about Abu 'Ammar's position nowadays?

[Answer] Abu 'Ammar enjoys the deep respect of the various Palestinian sides and plays a distinguished role. Through the past years of his long struggle, steadfastness, and absolute allegiance and devotion to the Palestinian cause, Abu 'Ammar contributed much to the promotion of the PLO in its militant and representation status. Even now when there are some differences in the Palestinian arena, Abu 'Ammar remains one of the Palestinian unity factors. Even those who disagree with him on certain sides of the political action and activities unanimously respect Brother Abu 'Ammar and rally around his leadership.

[Question] What about 'Isam as-Sartawi? How close is he to Abu 'Ammar? Is he that adviser who refuses to disclose his role?

[Answer] Well, the truth is that I am not an adviser to my Brother Abu 'Ammar. This is an honorable title I gained from the news media while in reality it does not exist. 'Isam as-Sartawi was and still is a small struggler of this people. He holds a humble role and continues to play it.

[Question] We appreciate this modesty and frankness.

AD-DAJANI ON PLO TIES TO JORDAN, REAGAN PLAN

PM311615 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Jan 83 p 7

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani by Ahmad Nafi' -- date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the truth about the agreement reached between Jordan and the PLO?

[Answer] We could say that Jordan and the PLO have agreed to move together on the basis of the Fes summit [resolutions] and within the Arab group. Their aim is to try to influence the international political situation and move politically to liberate the occupied territories. We could also say that they agreed, in broad terms, that relations between Jordan and liberated Palestine would be within a confederal framework (a kind of federation between two independent entities under one head of state).

[Question] Do the ideas of Jordan and the PLO include a formula of "authorization" for Jordan to represent the Palestinians in the negotiations?

[Answer] The question of authorization was not raised in any of the talks held between us. Even U.S. President Reagan's initiative tackled this matter. It clearly spoke of Jordanian-Palestinian participation.

[Question] On the question of joint efforts, where do you place Egypt and its role?

[Answer] As a result of the circumstances which began 4 years ago, Egypt does not directly participate in the joint efforts. However, it has frequently been eager to make efforts, especially in this past year, while taking into consideration the joint Arab efforts with a view to complementing these efforts and moving in harmony with them as much as possible. This became more evident this past year, indicating an important development which we expect will reach the point of direct moves within the Arab group.

[Question] You maintain that Jordan and the PLO prefer specific ideas. To what such ideas has the United States been responsive in the contacts held so far?

[Answer] The truth is that the United States, in the Reagan initiative, spoke about Jordanian-Palestinian participation in the peace process, with Arab support. This was in the text of the initiative announced on 1 September. As far as the word "Jordan" is concerned, it clearly means the Jordanian state and government, but the word "Palestinians" raises many questions. We Arabs consider the Palestinians to be the PLO. To us it means the people who have already chosen their representatives. This obstacle has not been overcome yet. It is in fact the result of the U.S. attitude toward the PLO. I do not believe that the Arab brothers should bother to discuss this point because there is a clear position expressed in the Arab summit resolutions, which stipulate that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is the general situation now. As regards specific formulas, it is too early to give preference to one formula over another.

[Question] Assuming that the United States insisted on its conditions regarding the PLO, what would happen then?

[Answer] It must be said that this issue is crucial because, while talking about its interest in offering a peace initiative, the United States is creating obstacles which have prevented parties important in achieving peace from responding to Reagan's views. A discussion of this matter on the Arab level would provide a joint answer to this question.

[Question] But prior definiton of the PLO's position on this matter is one of its direct responsibilities.

[Answer] It is indeed our responsibility. Any decision entails many responsibilities. The Arabs know very well that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that the PLO will itself debate this issue within the PNC to decide whether it will be the party to join the negotiations according to an acceptable framework. So far, the PLO and the Fes summit prefer the international framework as part of its own framework. Perhaps that most important topic to discuss is the framework we would opt for. Will international conditions permit the holding of an international conference? Will these conditions conditions favor the Security Council option, for example, as suggested in the Egyptian-French draft, or will there only be room for the framework proposed by President Reagan, in which case we must decide whether to join this framework or not, bearing in mind that the terms of the Reagan initiative are not acceptable to the Arabs committed to the Fes resolutions?

[Question] But the Arab states have not opposed the Reagan initiative.

[Answer] The Arab states said the initiative had some positive aspects but that they had observations on it. Some said there should be a bridge between the Reagan initiative and the Arab peace plan.

[Question] Let us consider another important factor. The United States has its own specific views about talking to the PLO. What is your opinion?

[Answer] It is now evident to everyone who deals in politics, particularly on this matter, that the United States refuses to talk directly to the PLO for what it calls practical considerations and nothing else. The formulas suggested at the international level for tackling this matter directly or indirectly are quite adequate. I just want to point out the following:

1. The condition to which Dr Henry Kissinger committed U.S. administrations did not rule out dialogue. It spoke of terms for negotiation. There is a big difference between dialogue and negotiation, but the U.S. administrations, for reasons of their own, generalized the ban to include dialogue.

2. Experts on U.S. politics unanimously agree that the agreement [on conditions for negotiation with the PLO] is not in fact binding on the U.S. Administration because it was not submitted to Congress. It was a secret agreement. In other words, the present administration can get out of it.

3. When, after the Fes summit conference, the Arab seven-member committee went to Washington, it explained the Arab peace plan, including Article 7, which is a clear article approved by the PLO. Its wording is quite sufficient confirmation that the Palestinians, as an organization, and all the Arabs want a just peace. (This article speaks of Security Council guarantees for all states in the region, including the Palestinian state, to live in peace within secure and recognized borders.)

4. During Lebanon's major war, a clear and specific agreement was reached between the PLO and the United States in the course of indirect negotiations. That agreement, which dealt with three extremely important issues, was violated by Israel. This called for a U.S. move toward the PLO because the Israeli violation meant a violation of the U.S. commitment to the PLO, but the United States did nothing of this kind.

I say that the discussion on this matter should be directed at the United States because the United States can hold a dialogue and can negotiate with the PLO and can put Israeli policy in the right light after all the violations committed by Israel, instead of throwing this point at the PLO.

[Question] What would happen if the United States rejected every framework other than that outlined in the Reagan initiative?

[Answer] The United States should crystallize its position and accept the consequences. I am of the opinion that after every war the atmosphere is suitable for establishing just peace, if the parties concerned have enough wisdom to uphold the right concept of a just peace. The responsibility is now on the shoulders of the United States. Since 1967, and more since 1973, it has adopted a policy of negative force in the region. That policy has prevented a just peace because it did not give peace a chance. Its responsibility now is to consider the elements in the whole picture and then define its position. I believe that it is only fair that we seek what we regard as just peace, but it is impossible to continue to impose on us anything that is not just. We hope that, with the participation of all the Arabs in this way, we can approach the United States correctly to convince it of the minimum conditions and principles necessary for the establishment of peace.

ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES END MEETING IN ADEN

GF280904 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The Arab solidarity committees concluded their meeting in Aden this evening by issuing resolutions and recommendations after (?discussing) the representatives' proposals this afternoon.

The final session was attended by Brother 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib, member of the Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the state media committee, and chairman of the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity, who gave a speech affirming the need to issue defined and clear resolutions in regard to the current Arab situation in which the Zionist forces have occupied important parts of Arab territories.

In their resolutions and recommendations, the conferees expressed their gratitude to the PDRY for hosting the meeting of the Arab solidarity committees and wished it more victories and accomplishments in economic and other fields.

The meeting emphasized means to countering the Zionist attack and to having a defined formula for Arab action.

The resolutions and recommendations referred to new developments that have taken place in the Arab region, particularly the imperialist attack against the Arab people. They also condemned imperialist and Zionist plots in the region against Arab people which are aimed at dealing a blow to Arab-Soviet friendship and at forming a Central Command for the RDF. They called on the Arab people to resist these plots.

The Arab solidarity committees affirmed support of the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's struggle. They denounced the proposed capitulatory settlements on this issue and expressed support of the Lebanese people's struggle against Zionist aggression, efforts to enhance Palestinian unity, and the Arab citizens' struggle in the occupied territories against Zionist rule. They also underscored the need to fight against dictatorial and fascist regimes, to set up national regimes, to direct the Arab masses in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, to develop friendship between the Arab nation and socialist countries and forces of freedom, and to struggle to extricate the Arab economy, particularly oil, from servitude to international imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism.

The resolutions and recommendations also expressed the need to enhance the solidarity committees' role in the Arab people's struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and Zionism, to bring about world public opinion support for the Palestinian issue, and to enhance their relations with other solidarity committees in countries all over the world.

Brother 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib also made a statement to radio and television reporters. He noted the great significance of this meeting because it was the first one held by representatives of forces of Arab public opinion after the events in Lebanon and after the grave imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plot against the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese national movement, and the whole Arab revolutionary movement.

Brother Ba Dhib noted that the meeting of forces of Arab public opinion was held to discuss within this framework the battle of the siege in Lebanon and to adopt appropriate steps to counter the U.S. imperialist-reactionary attack against our Arab people.

INA: ALF ISSUES STATEMENT ON CURRENT AFFAIRS

JN319146 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA) -- The Central Committee of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has said that Iraq, which was a lofty beacon in defending Damascus and averting its disgraceful downfall, is the Arab nation's mighty savior when faced with ordeals.

At the end of its meetings yesterday, the committee issued a statement in which it said that Iraq's stance today in facing the designs of the rancorous Iranian regime is just as important as the Palestinian fighters' confrontation of the Zionist invasion. The committee affirmed that those who are hostile to Iraq and support the Arab nation's enemies were also those who stormed the Lebanese mountain region which was held by the joint forces and vacated it for the Zionists. They are also the perpetrators of the Tall az-Za'tar massacre, who stained their hands with the blood of our heroic Arab people and our steadfast people in Hamah and Palmyra.

In its statement the front pointed out that the timing of the Beirut battles coincided with the escalation of the aggressive Iranian war on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland and Khomeyni's desperate attempts to cross the eastern borders. All this, the front added, has unveiled the harmony among the imperialist tools to strike at the centers of development and progress throughout the great Arab homeland. The front said that Al-Asad's regime was not only a mere onlooker when our masses and fighters waged their grinding war against the Zionist enemy, but was also deeply involved in the plotting before, during, and after the invasion and the siege. The front said that Al-Qadhdhafi advised the fighers to commit suicide but never sent any arms to them.

The front affirmed that the tripartite statement issued recently on the Syrian-Libyan-Iranian meeting is unequivocal evidence disclosing these sides' hostile role against Arabism and the Arab masses. The front said that the Libyan and Syrian regimes launched a feverish campaign of harrassment against the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian fighters in Al-Biqa' and in Syria in an attempt to revoke the independent Palestinian decision and use the PLO as a card to consolidate Hafiz al-Asad's negotiating position in the capitulatory settlement. The front described the statement issued by the Libyan regime and some Palestinian factions on 15 January as a departure from Palestinian legitimacy, because the meeting was held without PLO approval and because it harms the unity of Palestinian ranks and independent decision.

On the Lebanese situation, the front called for supporting the struggle of all strugglers and honorable nationalists in their resistance of the Zionist invasion to force the enemy withdraw from all Lebanon.

In the international sphere, the front called for gaining world public opinion and for exerting all efforts to expose the racist, expansionist, and aggressive nature of the Zionist movement and Zionist entity. The front hailed the steadfastness being displayed by our masses in the occupied territories and their commitment to the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In conclusion the front affirmed that Arab solidarity would surely be in the interest of the Palestinian cause. It is impermissible that views on the Palestinian cause be divergent, as this should be above all other considerations because it is more important than factional interests and selfish trends.

DAMASCUS CITES PFLP OFFICIAL ON TRIPOLI STATEMENT

JN261945 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] Aden -- PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad al-Yamani, alias Abu Mahir, has stated that the statement issued by five Palestinian organizations in Tripoli was in line with the Palestinian National Charter and the PNC resolutions. Al-Yamani, who is also a PFLP Political Bureau member, stressed that his front opposes the contacts some conspiratorial Palestinian sides are holding with King Husayn in order to liquidate the Palestinian cause. He also reasserted the PFLP's opposition to any Palestinian contacts with the Egyptian regime, which is linked to the treacherous Camp David agreements. Al-Yamani urged the Arabs to understand that Zionism is a racist and fascist movement.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC 'OFFICIAL SOURCE' DENIES REPORTS ON COUNCIL

GF291442 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Jan (WAKH) -- An official source at the GCC Secretariat has denied reports on establishing a GCC permanent ministerial council.

In a statement issued today, the source said: These reports are untrue. The issue has not been discussed and is out of question.

The source noted that GCC statutes provided for establishing two councils: the Supreme Council, which includes GCC leaders, and the Ministerial Council, which includes foreign ministers. In addition, there are permanent committees, which include ministers in various sectors in GCC countries.

The source affirmed that the GCC statutes make no provision for establishing a council as has been reported and that there is no inclination to establish such a council at present.

According to press reports, the GCC is currently preparing a draft resolution to form a permanent council similar to that in Europe.

OMANI DELEGATION TO BORDER TALKS DEPARTS UAE

GF280950 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0759 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Jan (WAM) -- The Omani delegation led by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qutbi, deputy minister of state and governor of Zufar, which took part in the meeting of the technical committee for demarcating the Omani-PDRY border, which ended in Abu Dhabi yesterday, left the UAE today.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry officials and Isma'il 'Ubayd, charge d'affaires at the UAE Embassy in Muscat.

KUWAIT

BANGLADESH LEADER ERSHAD ARRIVES 31 JANUARY

LD311130 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, chief martial law administrator of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, arrived in Kuwait at 1230 today on an official visit to the State of Kuwait that will last 3 days.

His excellency was given an official welcome at Kuwait International Airport. At the head of those taking part in the welcome was Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister. Also taking part were Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and minister of information; 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadi, minister of public health, who will accompany the guest during his visit; the ambassadors of both countries; and a number of prominent officials from the Prime Ministry and the Foreign Ministry.

The Bangladesh head of state is accompanied by an official delegation included A.R.S. Doha, foreign minister; Mahibubur Rahman, minister of local government, rural development, and cooperation; and a number of prominent Bangladesh Government officials. The delegation is accompanied by a group of journalists. A mission of honor led by the minister of public health has been formed to accompany the guest during his visit.

INDONESIAN OIL MINISTER SUBROTO ARRIVES 28 JAN

GF301135 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 29 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto arrived in Kuwait yesterday on the second leg of a Gulf tour amid reports an emergency meeting next month. The KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY (KUNA) reported Subroto, accompanied by Finance Minister Ali Wardhama, was carrying a message from Indonesian President Suharto.

KUNA neither disclosed the contents of the message nor the aim of the one-day visit, which came in the wake of the recent OPEC meeting where the 13 oil producers clashed over a plan to maintain OPEC's benchmark price of 34 dollar-a-barrel.

Subroto, who was greeted at the airport by his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh al-Khalifah as-Sabah, told reporters his talks would deal with oil prices. He did not elaborate, KUNA said.

Asked to comment on reports that a war pricing would erupt among OPEC members, Subroto said "I hope this would not happen."

"OPEC will stay and there is no reason to be worried," he said when asked about the future of OPEC.

He stressed the need to maintain the benchmark price "and that's what we decided in Geneva."

KUNA CRITICIZES SHULTZ' COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

LD311800 Kuwait KUNA in English 1605 GMT 31 Jan 83

["KUNA analysis" by Raphael Calis]

[Text] Washington, Jan 31 (KUNA) -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has finally stumbled. In one sweeping press conference on board his plant to Tokyo, he has said all the things that a professional diplomat should have never said.

And in the progress, he has poured cold water on everything that the Reagan administration has been trying to accomplish in the Middle East. He has publicly admitted U.S. failure in the Lebanon-Israeli negotiations and, in the process, he has perhaps dealt the death blow to President Reagan's peace initiative.

For two weeks now, all the parties involved in the Middle East conflict have known that the Reagan administration's top Middle East experts have been conducting a "Major policy review" on the Middle East to find out how to proceed next in the deadlocked Lebanese-Israel negotiations following the failure of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib to convince the Israelis to show flexibility and to agree to a formula that would bring all foreign forces out of Lebanon.

The policy review talks at the State Department were shrouded with utmost secrecy, but everyone was led to believe that the outcome would somehow produce a formula that would enable the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations to move forward and give a shot in the arm to the stalled overall peace negotiations envisioned in President Reagan's Sept. 1 peace initiative.

Habib's return to Washington and the announcement that a policy review on the Middle East was (?underway gave) the Lebanese Government some hope that perhaps finally the United States is planning to get serious with Israel.

The policy review was also being eyed carefully by King Husayn of Jordan, who has been hoping -- perhaps against hope -- that the Reagan administration would just meet his one condition for participation in the proposed face-to-face negotiations with the Israels: that the United States would force Israel to halt its expanding West Bank settlements.

The policy review was equally being scrutinized by the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization especially its leader Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was facing difficulty convincing his hardline colleagues that the Reagan initiative should be given a chance because this time the United States means business and will deliver.

But when the answer finally came Sunday from none other but Secretary of State George Shultz, all the expectations built on the American [word indistinct] were dashed -- and with it any hope of a breakthrough on either the Lebanon conflict or the Reagan peace initiative.

Shultz's gravest fault, as one Arab diplomat described it, was to call a spade a spade. The key points in his press conference can be summed up in the following: first, the Reagan administration expects "no breakthrough" in the talks concerning the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

And, second, Shultz ruled out applying any "pressure" on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. Third, he ruled out his travelling to the Middle East to use his personal influence in the stalled negotiations -- as had been expected by many in Washington circles [words indistinct] saying that there were excellent negotiators already involved in the discussions going on between Lebanon and Israel.

Instead of all this, Shultz said, "normal but intensified diplomacy" would be more successful.

To seasoned observers of the Middle East scene in Washington, Shultz appeared to commit the same mistake that his predecessor Alexander Haig did at the peak of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon this summer. He appeared to be in one way or another justifying Israel's prevarications in the talks with Lebanon.

In the process, by announcing publicly that the U.S. does not plan to exert any pressures on Israel, he seemed to be giving Israel the green light to continue stalling and to stay put in Lebanon, because the United States has no intention of cutting off aid or adopting any measure that might harm the Jewish state.

By publicly announcing "no breakthroughs" should be expected in the near future, Shultz poured cold water on any future moves that Philip Habib might take when he goes back to the Middle East in about two weeks.

"It might be better perhaps for Habib not to go back," commented one angered Arab diplomat who asked not to be named. "What is there for him to do after his boss predicted that there is very little that the United States can do?"

Shultz should have kept both the Arab and the Israelis guessing and should have given them hope at such crucial times in the peace negotiations, the diplomat added." Why should the Israelis show flexibility now when they know U.S. intentions"? the diplomat asked.

He added, "After hearing of the U.S. plan of inaction, I am sure King Husayn of Jordan, President Amin al-Jumayyil, and even PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat would be wondering today as to why they have put so much faith in the Reagan administration's promises and pledges.

"Once again, domestic considerations have taken priority for the Reagan administration. Shultz's statements have poured cold water on all the expressions of determination voiced by the Reagan administration in recent months that the United States is determined to follow though to the end on the Reagan peace plan. From an Arab point of view, Shultz's comments can only be interpreted as a public declaration of failure," the diplomat concluded.

As the various parties hastened Monday to make various interpreations of the Shultz statements, there was a consensus that only a backtracking by Shultz on his comments or a complete turnaround in U.S. intentions ordered by President Reagan can salvage a bit of the damage done to the Arab trust placed in the United States.

SAUDI ARABIA

JORDANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF ARRIVES IN JIDDA

LD311040 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1015 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Jidda, 31 Jan (SPA) -- Jordanian Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Zayid ibn Shakir and his accompanying delegation arrived in Jidda at noon today for a visit to the kingdom.

He was met at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Mihsin, deputy governor of Mecca; Major General Salih as-Sudays, commander of the Western Province; Jordan's ambassador to the Kingdom, and a representative from the Royal Protocol Office.

Meets With King Fahd

LD311357 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1255 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Jan (SPA) -- His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz received the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Zayid ibn Shakir at his office at the royal court in Jidda at midday today.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of defense and aviation, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

Leaves Jidda 31 Jan

GF311908 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Zayid ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him left Jidda this evening after a brief visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at the airport by His Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy Mecca amir; 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sudayri, Jidda commissioner; Major General Salih as-Sudays, acting commander of the Western Province; and the Jordanian ambassador to the Kingdom.

NIGERIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN JIDDA 31 JAN

LD311419 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1410 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Jidda, 31 Jan (SPA) -- Nigerian President Shehu Shagari arrived in Jidda this afternoon from Pakistan on a visit to the Kingdom to perform the minor pilgrimage.

SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN JIDDA

LD311333 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0940 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Jidda, 31 Jan (SPA) -- Senegalese Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse arrived in Jidda this morning on a visit to the Kingdom.

At the airport, he was met by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al Faysal, foreign minister; Major General Salih as-Sudays, deputy commander of the Western Province; Salim Sunbul, Foreign Ministry chief of protocol; and Moustapha Cisse, Senegal's ambassador to the Kingdom.

ALGERIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN JIDDA 31 JAN

LD311114 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1045 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Jidda, 31 Jan (SPA) -- Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, counsellor to the Algerian president, arrived in Jidda this morning on a visit to the Kingdom. He was met at the airport by Salim Sunbul, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and Tijani Haddam, Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD LEAVES FOR ALGERIA 30 JAN

GF301414 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, left Aden for Algiers this morning leading a delegation on an official and cordial visit to Algeria that will last several days.

During this visit,the brother secretary general will hold talks with his brother, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the National Liberation Front party. The talks will deal with the development of relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the various fields and issues of mutual concern, foremost among which is the situation in the Middle East in light of the continuing Zionist aggression against Arab countries.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is accompanied during this visit by a high-level official delegation consisting of Brothers Salih Munassar as-Siyayali, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of State Security Committee; 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of defense; 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, alternate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of industry; and a number of other officials.

The secretary general was seen off at the airport by Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; brother members of the Political Bureau and a number of members of the YSP Central Committee and ministers; senior officials in the country; members of the diplomatic corps; and representatives of the liberation movements in our country.

YEMENI-SOVIET COMMITTEES ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

GF281806 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] The Yemeni Council of Peace and Solidarity and the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Peoples, stressed the importance of developing bilateral relations. In a joint statement issued today following the visit of the delegation of the Soviet solidarity committee to the PDRY 21-28 January under the chairmanship of Comrade Aleksandr Sergeyevich Dzasokhov, the committee's first deputy chairman, the two sides satisfactorily lauded the status of the PDRY and the Soviet Union and the links of struggle, friendship, and anti-imperialist solidarity that link both countries and their mutual agreement on the tasks related to reinforcing peace and security in the Middle East and the entire world, in addition to their fruitful cooperation in the interest of the process of social and economic progress.

The two sides denounced the U.S. Administration's decision to form the Central Command to intervene in the affairs of 19 countries in Asia and Africa, 1 of which is the PDRY itself. They described this decision as new evidence of the ambitions of imperialism to control the world. The statement said: This step constitutes a defiance of independent nations and increases the intensity of international tension. It called on the nations of these countries and their national and democratic powers to struggle against this measure due to the threat it poses to their sovereignty and independence in the first place.

The Yemeni Council of Peace and Solidarity and the Soviet solidarity committee stressed the importance of solidarity with the peoples of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula against the military bases and provocative military maneuvers and against the imperialist intrigues to harm relations among the region's countries with the aim of strengthening its influence and political, economic, and military hegemony.

The two sides denounced the barbaric Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples with the support of the United States. The two sides saluted the heroic steadfastness of the Palestinian resistance and called for the withdrawal of the invasion forces from Lebanon and for defending its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

The two sides welcomed the next session of the Palestine National Council and expressed their confidence that the session will constitute a new support for the unity of the Palestinian resistance. They expressed their fixed support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, in order to regain their fixed national rights to establish their independent state and to return there and practice self-determination.

They also expressed appreciation for the efforts aimed at uniting the Arab national liberation movement, progressive Arab countries, and the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist Arab solidarity.

The Yemeni Council of Peace and Solidarity and the Soviet solidarity committee emphasized the importance of Arab-Soviet friendship. The joint statement said: This friendship and solidarity that are offered to the Arab peoples are considered an important factor in the struggle for the victory of the just question of the Arab Palestinian people and for the establishment of a solid and just peace in the Middle East. They highly valued the principled stand of the Soviet union and the complete support it offered and is offering to the Arab national liberation movement and to the question of the just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The statement also noted the importance of the resolutions that were adopted by the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty countries during recent meetings in Prague. It also praised the results of the meeting of the Arab solidarity committees that was held in Aden. It stressed the importance of preparing for the international conference on the question of peace, life, and opposition to nuclear war that will be held in Prague this year.

The Soviet delegation left Aden today. It was seen off by Brother 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Badib, YSP Central Committee member, deputy prime minister, chairman of the state's information committee and chairman of the Yemeni Council of Peace and Solidarity.

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES PALESTINIAN CP MEMBER 29 JAN

GF291650 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office today Brother Sulayman Najjab, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Communist Party.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed relations between the two fraternal parties and the scope of their development and developments in the Arab world, particularly the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the continued Zionist occupation of Lebanon and its threat to our Arab peoples, with the backing of the United States, to implement its aggressive strategy.

During the meeting, the brother secretary general emphasized that the nature of the current situation calls on all progressive forces and regimes in the Arab homeland to demonstrate more cohesion and coordination of stands to counter all the imperialist and Zionist challenges and increase their efficiency and influence among the Arab masses. He also lauded the role the Palestinian revolution, led by the PLO, is playing in enhancing the Arab national liberation movement, noting that preserving PLO unity will achieve more victories for the Palestinian revolution. He also reiterated that our country, its experience, and all potentials are available to all heroic revolutionary forces, led by the PLO.

Brother Sulayman Najjab expressed his gratitude for the PDRY and its revolution experience, led by the Yemeni Socialist Party, and its principled stand in support of the Palestinian people's struggle, affirming that the celebrations of the Palestinian revolution on its 18th anniversary have demonstrated the appreciation the Palestinian revolution feels for Yemen. He also expressed his satisfaction at the revolutionary feelings the Palestinian struggler sees in Aden from all masses of the Yemeni people.

YSP, Palestinian CP Statement

GF311742 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jan 83

["Text" of press statement issued in Aden following the visit of a Palestinian Communist Party delegation to the PDRY from 24 to 30 January]

[Text] At the invitation of the YSP Central Committee, Comrade Sulayman Najjab, Palestinian Communist Party Political Bureau member, made a visit to the PDRY from 24 to 30 January. During the visit he met with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and with a number of YSP officials.

During these meetings, the two sides reviewed developments in the Arab region, particularly developments in the Palestinian issue, after the U.S. imperialism-backed Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The two sides affirmed the two parties' view that Zionist aggression has not been and will not be able to liquidate the Arab people's just cause. The YSP expressed its firm and principled stand in support of the national liberation struggle the Arab Palestinian people are waging to confirm their legitimate rights in their homeland, especially their right to return, self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

The two sides reiterated their condemnation of the Camp David agreement and the Reagan plan and expressed their full confidence that the Arab Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories and aborad will continue their struggle to foil the autonomy rule plan and to establish an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

This struggle will be enhanced through Palestinian national unity and through the decisive confrontation of attempts to disrupt the Palestinian people's unity in the occupied Palestinian land and abroad and attempts to undermine the PLO's oneness and commitment to the goals of the Palestinian national struggle in the current stage to return, determine their fate, and establish an independent state.

The two sides emphasized that confronting the escalation of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plotting against the Palestinian people's liberation struggle necessarily calls for enhancing the Palestinian revolution's alliances with Arab liberation and progressive forces and with all international revolutionary forces, foremost among which are the socialist bloc countries led by the Soviet Union.

The two fraternal Yemeni and Palestinian parties expressed their solidarity of struggle with the Lebanese people and their nationalistic and progressive forces. They primarily affirmed the need to enhance the Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese nationalist alliance against capitulatory and treacherous plots, to expel the Zionist invaders from Lebanon and to foil all forms of U.S. imperialist interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and of undermining its sovereignty.

The YSP expressed its high appreciation for the establishment of the Palestinian Communist Party, which reiterates the Palestinian Communists' commitment to and anxiousness for the independent identity of the Palestinian people and their determination to continue struggling on the side of all factions of resistance and Palestinian national forces in leading the Arab Palestinian people, with all their classes and national groups, for the victory of their right for return, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

During their meetings, the Palestinian Communist Party delegation highly valued the development and progress in the PDRY, enlightened by ideas of scientific socialism and in trying to accomplish the revolution's national democratic tasks and socialist horizons under the YSP, the vanguard of the Yemeni toilers and laborers. The delegation highly evaluated the correct policy being adopted by the progressive system in the PDRY on the foreign level, particularly its firm and principled stand in support of the Arab Palestinian people's just cause and its increasing role among the ranks of the Arab national liberation movement in mobilizing its energies and reinforcing its unity in struggling against all features of the imperialist Zionist-reactionary attack in the Arab region.

The Palestinian Communist Party strongly denounced the imperialist and reactionary plots against the PDRY aimed at undermining its democratic system and jeopardizing its national sovereignty and national stability.

During their meetings, the two parties expressed satisfaction over the development of struggle relations between them. They emphasized the need to widen and strengthen these relations on the basis of proletarian, scientific, and international socialism to serve the issues of the common struggle of the two fraternal Yemeni and Palestinian peoples. The Palestinian Communist Party delegation expressed its great gratitude for the hospitality and welcome it received.

MUBARAK-LED DELEGATION'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA

Mubarak Meets Trudeau

NC312214 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Ottawa this afternoon beginning an official visit to Canada. He was received by Canadian Governor General Edward Schreyer, senior Canadian statesmen, and members of the Egyptian community in Canada.

An official reception was accorded the president at (Oblin) airbase where his plane landed. Schreyer delivered a speech welcoming his excellency. The president then proceeded to Ridohall Palace, the official headquarters of the Canadian governor general.

At 1830 today, President Husni Mubarak met with Edward Schreyer at the government palace. This was followed by a meeting between the president and Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau after which Trudeau gave President Mubarak's meetings with Schreyer and Trudeau dealt with a number of subjects, including the situation in the Middle East, the Lebanese issue and the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon. The discussions also dealt with the means to bolster bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field.

Mubarak's Banquet Speech

NC010714 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0200 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak delivered a speech at the banquet held in his honor yesterday by Canadian Governor General Edward Schreyer. Mubarak emphasized the importance of relations between Egypt and Canada, saying they are growing steadily. He praised Canada's support of the efforts being made to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He said: It is inevitable that the Israeli and all other forces must withdraw from Lebanon so that it can achieve the unity of its territory.

Mubarak said that the establishment of peace in the area requires ending the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory. He stressed that Canada's support of the peace efforts will encourage other parties to participate in the negotiations on achieving peace in the area.

Interview With Ghali

NC311835 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Toronto, 31 Jan (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's trips to the United States, Canada, Britain, and France aim at giving a new impetus to the Middle East peace process.

Dr Butrus Ghali said this in an interview with the Canadian television network CBC.

Dr Butrus Ghali was asked if he believes the U.S. stand is the main driving force in the talks on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon since it is clear that the aim of President Mubarak's visit to Washington is to convince President Reagan to increase pressure on Israel. He replied that the aim of the president's trip to Washington has not been to exert pressure on Israel but to give a new momentum to the peace process.

The minister of state affirmed that the peace process does not depend on Israel alone but also on the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and the rest of the Arabs.

During the interview, Dr Butrus Ghali pointed out that the United States is the basic partner in the Middle East peace process:

Dr Butrus Ghali said: We want the United States to find a comprehensive solution to the (?crisis) and, since it is a partner, it should [word indistinct] and make radical decisions to give a fresh momentum to peace.

Replying to a question as to whether he believes that Israel is deliberately obstructing the withdrawal of forces from Lebanon in order to delay the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: Definitely -- this has been one of the most important points that concerns us. We want to avoid these kinds of Israeli tactics because we are governed by the time factor, as the American election year is only 7 or 8 months away.

In his interview with the Canadian television network, Dr Butrus Ghali warned that if we could not reach a solution or the beginning of a solution to the Palestinian issue during the coming weeks, the solution of the crisis in its entirety would be put off until after the U.S. elections.

Asked if he believed that the U.S. initiative is insufficient for solving the Palestinian issue, especially now that Egypt has declared its general support for the initiative, Dr Butrus Ghali replied by saying: I believe that it is wrong to enter into the details of the Reagan plan and to compare it with the Egyptian-French initiative or the Fes summit resolutions. The important thing is for the talks to start and for sitting around the table to discuss Reagan's plan or any other plan.

During his television interview, the minister of state for foreign affairs replied to a question on the importance of the United States' recognition of the PLO as the Palestinians' representative. He said it is clear that the organization [PLO] represents the Palestinian people.

He said: We must be practical and realistic. If we want to enter into a direct dialogue with Israel, the PLO can give an authorization to an Arab state or to the West Bank inhabitants to participate in the peace process. It is definitely important that there should be direct contact between the United States and the organization but what is more important is the maintenance of the peace process and sitting around the same table.

During the television interview, Dr Butrus Ghali replied to a question about what the rest of the Arab states ought to do to enhance the chances of peace in the Middle East. He said: The moderate Arab states must be encouraged and some sort of an understanding must be established among the moderates in Israel and the Arab states against the extremists and rejectionists in both camps.

Asked if such a process can be carried out -- which is a good idea theoretically -- the minister of state for foreign affairs said that more contacts, more talks, and more dialogue among the moderate Palestinians, Arabs, and Israelis in a constant dialogue is in the interest of peace.

'Ali Interviewed by Newspaper

NC311824 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Toronto, 31 Jan (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has emphasized that the continued presence of the Israeli forces in Lebanon and the building of more settlements in the West Bank and Gaza sector constitute a danger to and slow down the peace process in the Middle East.

In an interview which (Michael McDowell), a journalist of the Canadian GLOBE AND MAIL paper, conducted with him and which the paper publishes today, 'Ali says the Israelis must withdraw as soon as possible and that any delay will create difficulties in the area and will be against U.S. interests in the Middle East.

In his interview, 'Ali says U.S. President Ronald Reagan informed the Egyptian delegation when it was in Washington that he was concerned because of the slow progress in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations on the withdrawal from Lebanon and that he intends to send U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib to the area with new proposals to give a push forward to the peace process.

'Ali says President Reagan's proposals on establishing peace in the Middle East, which Egypt supports, are the first U.S. interpretation of the Camp David accords despite the fact that the omission of the Palestinians' right for self-determination is considered a basic deficiency in the U.S. proposals. At any rate, the question of the Israeli settlements is further complicating matters.

In his interview, 'Ali stresses that Egypt's relations with the Arab states, particularly with Saudi Arabia, are improving continuously. He says the relations were not severed or suspended despite the Arab summit resolutions in Baghdad.

'Ali expresses optimism over the future of Egyptian-Arab relations because the present estrangement is not a natural situation.

'Ali refers to trade relations between Egypt and Canada and says it is necessary to increase Egyptian exports to Canada.

KAMAL HASAN 'ALI'S TELEVISION INTERVIEW

LD301535 London BBC Television Network in English 1945 GMT 29 Jan 83

["Saturday Briefing" program interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali by BBC television correspondent Richard Kershaw and THE GUARDIAN Washington correspondent Harold Jackson in Washington; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Kershaw] Good evening from Washington. Well, next Wednesday President Mubarak of Egypt arrives in Britain from America and Canada. It's his first visit since the assassination of President as-Sadat 15 months ago. Now, he comes at a time when the whole Middle East peace process seems to have come to a halt. The Camp David triumph -- which it was -- reached a culmination when Egypt recovered last April the rest of the land which it had lost to General Dayan's tanks in 1967. But, on the other side, progress towards autonomy for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza has gone nowhere. And there's been the Israeli invasion of the Lebanon with all its bloody consequences.

Now with me is Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the foreign minister of Egypt, who sits at the center of all these negotiations. And here to question him, with me, is Harold Jackson, the Washington correspondent of THE GUARDIAN.

Minister, is that peace which, with great surprise to the whole world, you made with Israel in 1978, is it still alive?

['Ali] Sure, it is still alive, and if we review the achievements after the Camp David accord was signed -- signing the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and implementing it, then carrying on the negotiations for the autonomy for about 3 and 1/2 years -- of course, with some interruption -- so that means that the Camp David accord is alive.

[Kershaw] Doesn't it look, though, as if the whole process has been put into what we would call the deep freeze?

['Ali] I think the Reagan's initiatives have activated the whole process. As we know, the negotiations for the autonomy were nearly frozen and Reagan's plan was considered, in our view, as a correction to the thoughts of Camp David which were inserted by Israel during the negotiations.

[Jackson] Minister, can I just pursue this whole question of your relations with Israel? At the moment you have no ambassador in Tel Aviv because of the Lebanese crisis. The Israelis have made a number of changes. For example, there is increased anti-Semitism in Egyptian newspapers, is one of the things that they have said. Really, what are your relations with the Israelis at the moment?

['Ali] The reality is that we respect the peace process; we respect the Egyptian-Israeli treaty; we implement it officially; and the purchases of oil are continuing. One month ago Israel have purchased 2.3 millions tons of oil from Egypt. And our embassies there -- the Israeli ambassador is in Cairo, but we have to be realistic. [sentence as heard] The invasion of Israel to Lebanon and the series of massacres have affected the public opinion in the whole world, as well as in Egypt. And those who forget that Egypt is an Arab country are mistaken. So, whatever affects the public opinion in the Arab world, affects the Egyptians as well.

[Kerhsaw] Would you though in any way, minister, feel that you have gone as far as you should, or in a sense as you'd promised you would, in what is called the normalization of relations with Israel?

['Ali] Well, normalization is going on, and I am very positive in that respect.

[Kershaw] The Israeli would dispute that.

['Ali] But, you know, whenever it comes to the public opinion we have to be very cautious and very carefully tackle the normalization issues with Israel. And we are in favor of getting better relations with Israel.

[Jackson] But surely -- you mention, quite rightly, Egyptian public opinion -- isn't it going to be a real problem for you now, having stepped back from this relationship? After all, the withdrawal of the ambassador is in a sense a breach of the peace treaty. How are you going to get back into that relationship and allow it to go forward?

['Ali] Anyhow, I think for both countries to implement the treaty in good will and for Israel to encourage the public opinion in Egypt, coming to a solution for the Lebanese problem, then proceeding in the peace process, agreeing about the Reagan's plan, freezing the settlements, which is intensified in the last few months: I think this will cause a soothing down in the public opinion.

[Kershaw] We will come on to those individual points you have mentioned, but can we come back to the Lebanon, minister? You say that it's had a great effect, but wasn't it inevitable that the Israelis did act? How they acted is a different question, but wasn't it inevitable that they did act?

['Ali] Really, it is very astonishing that these massacres only took place when the Israelis took responsibility. That's the point. So they accepted to be responsible. And they are.

[Kershaw] It's the massacres you're thinking of more than the fact that Israel did go in and actually physically move into Lebanon?

['Ali] Well, I think this is left to Kahan's committee which is investigating the whole question in Israel.

[Jackson] Can I just ask you, though; President Mubarak made it quite clear when he had his discussion with President Reagan that he expected the Americans to bring pressure on Israel both for a troop withdrawal and for a general settlement. What do you really want the Americans to do?

['Ali] But let us first agree that the word "pressure" is not convenient in the diplomatic relations with anybody. Egypt never accepts any pressure, and we do not expect that Israel would agree to any pressure.

[Jackson] Well, let's say that you want to persuade the Israelis?

['Ali] Yes, that's the word I would like to use. To persuade. Yes, it is very essential to persuade the Israelis that all these acts are against the peace, and against the U.S. interest in the area.

[Jackson] But the record so has not really been terribly good, though there've been several public statements by President Reagan and other American leaders. The Israelis have not really moved. What do you think that the Americans can really do now?

[Kershaw] Over the Lebanon?

[Jackson] Over the Lebanon, this is.

['Ali] Well, I think they are doing a good job by sending Habib to the area, shuttling between the parties concerned, and trying to push the process forward. So this will, I am sure, come to a reasonable solution.

[Jackson] But are you looking for some form of sanctions if there isn't any Israeli movement?

['Ali] I think that this is left to the bilateral relations between the United States and Israel, which I know is very tied together. So...

[Kershaw] Mr Hasan 'Ali, the other thing which you are asking -- let's not use the word "pressure" but for advice or forcible advice from the Americans to Israel about, is the other half of Camp David, the question of the autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza. Now, where do your negotiations with the Israeilis stand on this?

['Ali] Here we have two factors to be considered. The first is the Arab position. And, as we well know, the Arab countries are forthcoming for the peace process, implementing the Fes summit decision.

And then there is another step which is very essential: That's the agreement and coordination between the PLO and King Husayn of Jordan. If they would come to an agreement for forming the delegation for the forthcoming negotiations, I think this will be a giant step towards peace.

[Kershaw] That would be a real change, wouldn't it?

['Ali] I think it will be. And hopefully it will be implemented.

[Jackson] But it's become quite obvious from President Mubarak's visit to Washington and from earlier statements that you, the Egyptian Government is now putting a number of conditions down: that you want a settlement in the Lebanon, that you want the number of negotiators widened to include the Jordanians and Palestinians. These are all fairly substantial points for the Israelis to concede: In what time span are you seeing this happening?

['Ali] Well, I see the urgency of proceeding in the peace process, and of course the settlement of the Lebanese problem is a cornerstone in the process. So, we have to move in both directions. During the negotiations for the Lebanese occupation we have to consider also the steps which have to be taken for the sake of holding the negotiations for the autonomy.

[Kershaw] But, to be frank, you want the United States to be tougher, and the United States is -- the Western allies -- to be tougher with Israel on these issues?

['Ali] Well, let us use the word "tougher"...

[Kershaw] I used the word "tougher," if I may.

['Ali] Instead of pressure.

[Jackson] But one of the things that was mentioned in the statements after the meetings here was that the Egyptians really would like the Americans to make some further concession -- if you will -- to Palestinian self-determination. What exactly do you mean by that? What is it that you would now like to see from Washington?

['Ali] You know, in Camp David the self-determination is there. In Reagan's plan it was for some extent lowered down. And that's why we're keeping the draft in the Security Council about the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, and at the same time the self-determination for the Palestinians is there in this draft.

[Kershaw] Now, can I come on to this, because there are a lot of -- carrying the peace process forward -- there are a lot of so-called plans about, none of which is yet effective. Before talking about the Reagan initiative from September, can I ask you about the plan produced by the moderate -- if I may use that word without impoliteness -- the moderate Arab side, the now Saudi King Fahd had a plan in his name, and this was taken up by King Husayn and others. This does accept the ultimate recognition of Israel by the other Arab states, which is what you've done; it seems so far that your reaction to the Arab plan has been a little ambiguous.

['Ali] From the negotiations going on between the PLO and King Husayn of Jordan we see that the confederation is foreseen now between both of them. So this is considered as a step forward. But, dealing with the negotiations for the autonomy, we have to leave to the Palestinians through the self-determination negotiations the entity they like, with the Jordanians as well. So the Jordanians have to have their word also.

[Kershaw] But my point really was more though that you do accept that what King Husayn and King Fahd and people can do is good will; it's good will towards you and towards the peace process?

['Ali] Yes.

[Jackson] Can we now come on to the central point, which you've touched on, of the Reagan plan which is that whatever Palestinian entity is eventually set up should be connected with Jordan, there should be an integral connection with that. What guarantee can there be that that will then endure, if you are talking about the Palestinians determining their own role? What guarantee can there be that they want this confederation with Jordan?

['Ali] Well, let us agree that the self-determination is the right of all people and they have to implement it. And we have in the West Bank and Gaza 1.3 million people. We can't deny the right for self-determination. And the guarantee for this link between Jordan and the Palestinians is very natural because the West Bank and Gaza have no sources. It has to rely on somebody, and this body is Jordan. So, in reality there is this understanding. And with the negotiations going on between Jordan and the Palestinians it proved this possibility and this demand of the Palestinian people, that they will be linked with Jordan.

[Kershaw] President Mubarak did yesterday mention that there was considerable hope about these talks. Do you have any direct and practical signs that there is hope of an understanding?

['Ali] Yes, I do hope that the Palestinians will make their decision in a democratic way, not in consensus (?in third party).

[Jackson] Can I just ask you about a slightly earlier point of this process: Do you think that King Husayn is now likely to join the Camp David talks and to go forward with that process?

['Ali] I think this will depend on the participation of the Palestinian delegation. And I am hopeful that the Palestinians will take this decision on 14 February when the National Council will meet in Algiers.

[Kershaw] Excuse me pushing you on this, in a sense, central but also critical question of the Palestinian entity, or the Palestinian state. Do you regard the other alternative of the link with Jordan but of a separate Palestinian state, do you now regard that as out of the window, that it just is not practicable, that it would not be acceptable obviously to Israel, and that it, therefore, should be put to one side, or is it still a possibility in your mind?

['Ali] You mean the linkage?

[Kershaw] No, of a separate Palestinian entity, a Palestinian state.

['Ali] I think it is very difficult. And, as we see, all the Palestinians, the PLO, through the negotiations with Jordan, they foresee that they have to be linked with Jordan.

[Kershaw] Do you recognize -- which has been one of the other great Arab talismans -- do you recognize the PLO as the main, or the sole representative of the Palestinians?

['Ali] We, Egypt sees that the PLO has a very essential role. You know, we are trying through the negotiations for the autonomy to solve the problem of the occupied lands and the people under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. But to solve the Palestinian problem from all its aspects we have to consider those Palestinians in this diaspora. So, there the PLO has a very essential role.

And even in the final status of the West Bank and Gaza, they have a say, too. They have the essential role.

[Jackson] How durable do you think the PLO is likely to be? We've already seen that your own recommendation they should now accept the existence of the State of Israel is causing tremendous tension. Certainly one of the things that's likely to happen at the forthcoming meeting is that there will be a split. Who will then represent the Palestinians?

['Ali] That's why I say that the PLO has to take a decision in a democratic way, not necessarily to have the consensus of all parties concerned in the PLO. And I know that one faction of the PLO, which is Fatah, has the majority. So they have to decide.

[Jackson] Do you not then run a risk that the Israelis will then say: That's this split; we're just going to go back to where we started; there'll be a new terrorist organization formed, we are not prepared to accept anything on that basis, if you cannot get anything like unity on the Palestinian side.

['Ali] Well, this has not to impose any side effects on the peace process at all, either from Israel, or from the PLO, or from Jordan, or anybody else.

[Kershaw] You regard that as an excuse?

['Ali] Yes, But it will never be an excuse.

[Kershaw] Your government, your president directly, have been recommending the PLO to go ahead and unilaterally recognize Israel?

['Ali] Yes.

[Kershaw] You see that as a negotiating tactic, because that again would be a quite stunning event if it occurred?

['Ali] Well, when we saw that it is a difficulty for Chairman 'Arafat to implement it, now we are asking Chairman 'Arafat and his colleagues to consider forming the delegation for the negotiations. And this is most important.

[Jackson] Can I widen the picture? We've tended to concentrate very narrowly on the immediate area, this is to bring you out into the world at large. One of the most noticeable recent developments has been the whole collapse of oil prices, the disarray in OPEC, the fact that Britain, for example, produces more oil than all but one Arab nation -- how much does that worry you, that the influence that came from oil is now being evaporated and that the world at large is losing interest in the Middle East problem because of that?

['Ali] But I think that still the oil from the Middle East forms about 70 percent of the energy from all over the world. And it will continue to be for more than a decade. So, whether the prices are down or up, it doesn't matter. The oil itself is what counts. So the area will still have its influence on the political...

[Kerhsaw] There have been though a number of changes in what one might call the line-up in the Arab world. One does see -- it's pointless to deny it -- there are enormous ideological divisions and nationalistic divisions, and also the line-up does seem to be changing; there seems to be a different mood in the Arab world as a whole.

['Ali] Umm...

[Kershaw] The Arab League as much, you had to leave the Arab League because of the stand you took on Israel; but do you now feel that a number of Arab states are coming nearer to your position?

['Ali] Yes, well, you know, the Egyptian-Arab relations are improving the whole time, because there is a full understanding in the Arab world about Egypt's position vis-a-vis the peace. And all the Arab nations now are directed to peace. They are forthcoming to peace.

[Jackson and Kershaw] All?

[Kershaw] Are you not stretching the thought?

['Ali laughs] Well...

[Kershaw] There are one or two Arab wars going on, Minister, between Iraq and Iran...

['Ali] In the last days maybe some countries have changed, but we do not rely on these public statements. But in reality the Fes summit meeting decision is there, still.

[Kershaw] Do you ever regret -- if I can put the question this way -- that Egypt did take that historic decision, President As-Sadat did, and you went off on your own? You've had a lot of negative consequences for you, diplomatic and otherwise; but seeing what's happened, do you ever regret it?

['Ali] No, never we regret our giant step towards peace. And the people of Egypt, and I think most of the Arab countries, are committed to peace now.

[Jackson] Minister, can I raise one issue though, which is an obvious trend in the Arab world and must be worrying, which is the steady rise of Islamic fundamentalism, the fact that there are people that are really bitterly opposed any resolution of this problem. [sentence as heard] And indeed President as-Sadat was a victim of them. How much is this going to be a serious factor in the...

['Ali] You know, the fanaticism is everywhere, all over the world. It's not only in Egypt or in anywhere else. It is there, everywhere. And if we just review the films when President as-Sadat made his initiative to Jerusalem and when he came back to Egypt after the initiative and after the peace process, and I mean after the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, not less than 5 million Egyptians received him. This can't be at all prepared by any government.

[Kershaw] Yes, there was obviously enormous relief in your country.

['Ali] Yes, so the public opinion is there. The public opinion is for peace. So this no one can deny.

[Kershaw] But we also do see Iraq, as we say, fighting an enormously damaging and expensive war with its neighbor, with Shi'ite Iran. Now, there are these dangers in the area, which are very considerable, aren't they, for the whole world?

['Ali] It is; in fact, any racial sect is dangerous. But if we see the number in Egypt, for instance, it is very limited. But they could do the damage: the assassination of President as-Sadat. But that doesn't mean that they can affect the public opinion in an opposite way, no.

[Jackson] But can they not feed, as extremists always do all over the world, on the, for example, the economic problems that your country is now facing?

Isn't this also a real danger that your domestic situation, which is very difficult at the moment, will feed this sort of movement?

['Ali] No, not at all. We have the very strong public opinion behind the government, and, as I say, there is democracy in our country; everybody can publish anything without any danger for him. And we accept all the opinions. We accept everybody to show his opinion. But we have our policy which is very strongly supported by the constitutional organizations. We have our 5-year plan which covers the economic field in a very strong way. It covers all our difficulties, economically, socially, and there is quite a good understanding of it in the public opinion of Egypt. Any factions, any fundamentalists will never affect the public opinion in the economic field.

[Kershaw] Might I, without disrespect, say that saying that your 5-year plan covers all your economic problems completely -- you have very severe economic problems, do you not, and in infrastructure you had the great expense of your armed forces, and you still do have great expense with your military forces, are you not in need of greater international economic aid than you are getting, and is that one of the things you've been asking about during this trip to the United States?

['Ali] Yes. You know, no country can be isolated from the others, and that's why we encourage investment from all over the world, and specially our friendly countries. So we rely on the investments in Egypt in the form of joint ventures or in support in any loans. And we have already put our priorities for using these investments. So this will help, of course.

[Jackson] Is this going to be one of the main topics because we are, as I mentioned, we are encouraging foreign investments and loans as well.

[Kershaw] And from Israel? Because again part of the whole normalization process -- certainly the Israelis hoped that they would have a considerable eocnomic interaction with you. They have a manufacturing sector, as do you. Is that ever going to get anywhere or is that still to epoch-making?

['Ali] No, you know, once the situation cools down in the Middle East, I think the normal relations will be going back again. And, as I mentioned just a few minutes ago, that the purchases between the two countries and some projects, joint projects, are here. They are not frozen. So hopefully that image of Israel in the area will be improved, and the normalization will go on in its utmost.

[Kershaw] Now that was the economic thing that you may be asking when you come to London, but can I ask you and come back to the political kingdom?

['Ali] Yes.

[Kershaw] What about our, the British, also generally the European, role in this whole peace process? There was the Venice declaration by the European heads of state. They committed themselves to a role for the Palestinians, an essential role. What position and help do you think the British, the Europeans, can give to this process, As distinct from the United States?

['Ali] Yes, well, the European role is very essential to the peace process.

And we consider this role as essential for the peace process because, you know, the Europeans have very good ties with the United States, with the Arab countries, with Israel as well. And in this respect they can do a lot, convincing the United States, convincing Israel, and convincing the Arabs as well, to be more forthcoming and more positive in the peace process.

[Jackson] How worried are you about the dispute that's taken place between Britain and the Arab League over the composition of their delegation? Do you regard this sort of thing as minor, or is it a significant problem?

['Ali] Well, I hope that this will be overcome, because you know our position vis-a-vis the PLO and the recognition of the PLO. We urged the U.S. Administration several years ago to start the dialogue with the PLO. So in this respect we would like to see more encouragement for the PLO from the other European countries.

[Jackson] Minister, can you really expect that encouragement when the PLO steadfastly refuses to do what everybody wishes it to do, your own country included, which is simply to recognize the fact of Israel? Is that not an absolutely essential prerequisite to their dealing with other nations?

['Ali] Well, what do you consider the Fes summit decision? It is a recognition of Israel, which the PLO agreed upon, so we have not to exert more pressure on the PLO. We have to encourage more than to exert pressure.

[Jackson] Why do they always stop from that final step, of Mr 'Arafat or whoever saying: We recognize Israel. Not that we accept it necessarily, but simply that we recognize that it is there; it has a right to be there.

['Ali] Well, if they have their troubled also inside the PLO, we have to consider this, that we have to encourage the PLO, and hopefully that on the next month, on 14 February, that they will take a decision. We have to encourage them to take this decision.

[Kershaw] In relation to your relations with other Arab states -- leaving out Iraq and Syria, or Libya, some of the more extreme-viewed states -- certainly with relation to Jordan, with relation to Saudi Arabia, and with relation to Morocco and King Hassan, do you feel that you are all on a converging course now, where before you were on one that was separating?

['Ali] Well, I see that the relations even with Iraq is better than ever before, after the Camp David accord was signed. So it is improving.

[Kershaw] May I put a final question which is asking you to do a difficult thing, which is in a sense to look at this whole position from the other side, from the point of view of an Israeli, given that there are these wars going on, that there are still countries nearby calling for the destruction of Israel, as there are, as Libya does, why should Israelis believe you when you say you really want to make peace; why should they not insist on absolute guarantees?

['Ali] You know, the Arab world have shown some flexibility, a considerable flexibility, and Israel has to show and to encourage this attitude from the Arab world. But what is going on now is, from Israel's side, is the rejection of Reagan's initiative, building settlements, daily practices against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and all these practices do not at all encourage anybody. And the invasion of Lebanon was a very -- you know, had a very -- bad impact on the Arab thoughts. So something has to be done from both sides.

[Jackson] Can I ask you then if you feel that more progress will be made if we saw a different government in Israel? Is Mr Begin a problem?

['Ali] In fact, we don't rely on that. We rely on the good understanding of any Israeli government. We have now a new perspective, I mean the Reagan's plan and the Fes summit decision, which is encouraging, and the perspectives after leaving the PLO to Beirut -- after they left Beirut -- I think this also is a new outcome in the whole situation. So we have to make use of it. We have to benefit from it.

[Kershaw] Minister, thank you for answering our questions so frankly. Welcome to you and your president when you come to London.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 982

JN311725 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Communique No 982 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 31 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Armed with sure confidence in scoring the definite victory, destroying the aggressors, and crushing their treacherous attempts, our armed forces continued their valiant operations in the operational sectors. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using various types of weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions, concentrations, and troop movements in the area opposite our positions in the Maysan oprational sector, killing 22 and destroying 1 tank, 1 vehicle, 1 excavator, 2 infantry positions, and 2 hardware stockpiles. Furthermore, one of our forward units attacked an enemy concentration in the same sector, killing 10, wounding a number of others, and destroying 3 infantry positions, setting them on fire.

2. Throughout the day, our able aircraft attacked enemy units, positions, and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our positions in the Maysan sector and targets deep inside enemy territory in the southern sector, scoring direct and effective hits. Our forward units observed the damaged targets being destroyed by large fires. All of our planes, praise be to God, returned safely to base after successfully accomplishing their combat missions.

3. One vehicle and one infantry position were destroyed in the central operational sector.

4. Using artillery, the spiteful Khomeynite regime today intermittently shelled Mandali and its outskirts, damaging some civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 January 1983

ROMANIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD 28 JAN

JN282228 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2058 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA) -- Ion Nicolae, Romanian deputy prime minister [title as received], arrived in Baghdad tonight leading a technical and trade delegation on a visit to Iraq that will last several days.

In an arrival statement to INA, Nicolae said he would hold talks with Iraqi officials to implement what was agreed on by President Saddam Husayn and Nicolae Ceausescu during the Romanian President's visit to Iraq last year and to find new fields of bilateral cooperation. He also said he would inspect the projects being implemented in Iraq by Romanian companies in order to take the necessary measures to speed up the work.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN301718 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1654 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Romanian President Nicoale Ceausescu on bilateral cooperation. The message was delivered to the president by Ion Nicolae, Romanian deputy prime minister for economic affairs [title as received], during their meeting here this evening.

The meeting was attended by Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister; Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, director of presidential office; the president's secretary; and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Oil Minister

JN301954 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi this morning met with Ion Nicolae, Romanian deputy prime minister [title as heard], and his delegation. The minister welcomed the Romanian guest and praised the developed and prosperous relations between the two friendly countries, especially in petroleum field.

Ion Nicolae expressed his country's readiness to extend to Iraq technical assistance in all fields of common interest. During the meeting, they reviewed existing bilateral relations and the means of promoting them. They also agreed to hold other meetings in the future.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES CPC DELEGATION 27 JAN

JN271910 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 27 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA) -- Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Ba'th Party National Command, in charge of the National Command Foreign Relations Office, and foreign minister, received here tonight the CPC delegation led by Zhang Xiangshan, adviser to the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee.

During the meeting, which was attended by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, director of the Foreign Relations Office in the Ba'th Party National Command, and the PRC ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed friendship and cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPC and the means of promoting these relations. They also discussed relations between Iraq and the PRC and the desire of officials in both countries to promote them on the basis of the common interests and aspirations of their peoples, the situation in the region, and international issues of mutual interest.

KING HUSAYN, DELEGATION RETURN FROM BELGIAN, SPAIN

JN291626 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned to the homeland this evening after a 3-day official visit to Belgian during which his majesty met with King Baudouin, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, and senior Belgian officials. His majesty also met with the chairman of the EEC ministerial council and the speaker of the European Parliment.

King Husayn's talks with Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens dealt with bilateral relations and means of developing them, especially in the economic, trade, and social fields. His majesty discussed current international issues, the latest developments in the Middle East, and the efforts which are being exerted to achieve a just and lasting solution to the central issue in the Middle East crisis.

His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur had paid a 1-day private visit to Spain during which his majesty the king met with His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain and held a session of talks with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalea during which the political situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations were reviewed.

His majesty the king was received at Amman airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the speaker of the National Consultative Council, Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, the ministers, several senior civilian and military officials, and the Spanish ambassador in Amman.

Returning with the king was the accompanying delegation consisting of: Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Maran al-Qasim, minister of foreign affairs; and Dr Hanna 'Awdah, chairman of the National Planning Council.

Report on Talks

For Amman Domestic Service coverage of King Husayn's visit to Belgium, see the Benelux section of the 29 January Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE TO MEET 5 FEB

JN311138 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Amman, (AR-RA'Y) -- The Jordanian-Palestinian Committee in charge of bolstering the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories will begin its meeting on Saturday to discuss the committee's working programs for the forthcoming stage in light of the fierce settlement onslaught and the unprecedented expropriation of the citizens' lands. The committee will also discuss the deteriorating conditions of Arab workers and other issues pertaining to housing, agriculture, and higher education.

The Jordanian side will be headed by Occupied Land Affairs Minister Hasan Ibrahim and the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee member Hamid Abu Sittah.

BRIEFS

UN REPRESENTATIVE -- Amman -- A royal decree has been issued appointing 'Abdallah Salah Jordan's representative to the United Nations. [Excerpt] [Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Jan 83 p 1 JN]

ISRAELIS TRY TO PENETRATE U.S. LINES IN BEIRUT

NC010824 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0818 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that a mechanized Israeli force is trying to enter Hayy as-Sullum in the [southern] suburb by penetrating the U.S. Marines' lines. The force is moving from the Kafr Shima crossroad in the direction of the faculty of science. This has caused tension in the area.

50 Meters From Marines

NC010924 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] An Israeli force consisting of 5 vehicles and 20 men got to within 50 meters of the U.S. forces in the southern suburb. The force then drove away in the direction of Al-Hadath.

Israeli's Comb Kafr Shima

NC010922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] This morning Israeli forces carried out a combing operation in the Kafr Shima area and the perimiter of the science faculty. This area is beyond the control of the Lebanese Army. After concluding the operation, the Israeli forces withdrew at about 1000. But two Israeli personnel carriers remained at the access to Kafr Shima.

SYRIAN FORCES ON 'HIGHEST' ALERT IN AL-BIQA'

NC010628 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Reports from Al-Biqa' indicate that Syrian forces have been put on highest alert for the first time since the Israeli operation in Lebanon last June. Meanwhile, Israeli bulldozers have continued to build additional fortifications along the contact lines, and trailers have transported more heavy tanks to consolidate most positions.

CAUTION IN 'ALAYH; ITALIANS SUSPEND PATROLS

NC311556 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Extreme caution prevails in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh areas. The most significant incident today was the attack the leftist socialists launched against the western quarter of 'Alayh using machineguns and rockets.

Bhamdun was subjected to medium and light weapons fire. A number of rocket shells fell in Kafr 'Ammayh. They were fired by the leftist socialist positions in the Al-Ghabun area.

Within the framework of the security measures which the Israeli army is adopting, four Israeli personnel carriers took up positions in the Galerie Sim'an area and four other carriers took up positions near the Al-Matar pharmacy in Al-Hadath.

An Israeli force tried to enter the [southern Beirut] suburb. It was intercepted by the Lebanese Army force in the (Saqi al-Hadath). As a result, the Israelis set up a blockade 100 meters from the Lebanese Army's position. The Israeli forces then left the blockade.

Informed security sources report that the Italian contingent [with the multinational force] has suspended its participation in the patrols which were deployed in cooperation and coordination with the Lebanese Army and the French contingent. The reasons for this stand are not known.

REPORTAGE ON SUBCOMMITTEE TALKS IN KHALDAH 31 JAN

Plenary Issues Discussed

NC311305 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1254 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Dispatch by official delegation of Ministry of Information from Khaldah]

[Excerpt] At 1345 today, the subcommittees ended their meetings and the members went for lunch. They are still at lunch.

An official information source reported that the discussions of the subcommittees today dealt with the details of the points raised in the plenary session today in addition to defining the points which will be raised in the meetings of the subcommittees tomorrow and day after tomorrow in Netanya. The source added that other meetings will be held this afternoon on the level of subcommittees to continue discussing the preparations for tomorrow's meetings.

Meetings End

NC311509 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1450 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Dispatch by official delegation of Ministry of Information]

[Excerpts] This is the delegation of the Ministry of Information to the negotiations in Khaldah:

The 11th round of the negotiations ended in Khaldah at 1645. The Lebanese military spokesman, Major 'Atif Tarabay, read the following statement to the reporters:

[Begin recording] The subcommittees today discussed in an intensive way the details of the items on the agenda. They made progress in drawing the points of view closer on the various topics. The subcommittees will meet in Netanya tomorrow. Thank you. [end recording]

Progress Reportedly Made

NC312139 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil tonight chaired a meeting of the members of the political operations room and the Lebanese negotiating delegation. An evaluation was made of what was achieved during today's negotiations. Preparations for the meeting of the subcommittees in Netanya tomorrow were completed.

It has been learned that progress was made in various aspects during today's negotiations, particularly in connection with military affairs and most prominently the question of security arrangements.

Lebanon emphasized that it is not ready to discuss any partial withdrawals now that Israel is again making hints regarding this issue.

During today's opening session, leader of the Lebanese delegation Antoine Fattal again clarified Lebanon's stand on three main issues -- the U.S. role as a full partner in the negotiations and a principal negotiator, the UN emergency forces' role in south Lebanon and the multinational force's role.

Ambassador Fattal reiterated Lebanon's categorical rejection of the establishment of any type of warning systems or watchtowers by any side other than the Lebanese on the land of Lebanon. The discussion of the framework of the future relations between Lebanon and Israel is a ramiform discussion which cannot be separated from the discussion of the framework of Israel's possible relations with the Arab states.

On the other side, Lebanon has not yet received official information about Ambassador Philip Habib's anticipated return to Lebanon. Lebanese officials hope that the U.S. presidential envoy will return this time carrying with him a specific draft agreement or at least the broadlines of an acceptable agreement.

Regarding the contacts and negotiations which Lebanon is holding on the realization of the withdrawal of the forces other than the Israelis from its territory, these contacts and negotiations are taking place in stages. However, the negotiations with the Palestinians are being carried out in three stages. The first stage deals with the clarification of some questions and the preparation of the full dossier for discussion. The second stage deals with the discussion of the measures which would lead to the realization of the withdrawal without linking these measures to a place or time. The third stage deals with the circumstances of the withdrawal and its timing because the PLO has previously taken the political decision to withdraw from Lebanon.

NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES MEET IN NETANYA 1 FEB

NC010921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0905 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation at Hotel Dan in Netanya]

[Excerpt] The negotiations subcommittees started their work on the seventh floor of Hotel Dan in Netanya at 1100 today. Three working committees are meeting today: the committee on security arrangements and withdrawals, the committee on mutual relations, and the committee on possible guarantees. The communications committee will meet at 1200 today under the chairmanship of Dr Antoine Barud.

Spokesman Talks to Reporters

NC011135 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1040 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Information Ministry delegation in Netanya]]

[Text] The subcommittees met at 1100 this morning. These committees are: the first committee on withdrawals and security arrangements, chaired by General Hamdan and Colonel Munir Ruhayyim on the Lebanese side, by General Cooley and Colonels Collins and (Davies) on the U.S. side and by General Tamir on the Israeli side. The second committee on mutual relations is charied by Ambassador Ibrahim Kharma on the Lebanese side, Ambassador Morris Draper on the U.S. side and Dr David Kimche on the Israeli side. The third committee on guarantees includes Dr Antoine Barud on the Lebanese side and Dr Rubinstein on the Israeli side.

At 1230 Israeli official spokesman Avi Pazner [as heard] told reporters: At 1200 the committees ended their first phase of studying the subjects before them. At today's meetings these subcommittees discussed the mutual relations, including the communications subject which encompasses the movement of goods and persons. The military committee discussed the security arrangements.

The subcommittees will resume their meetings this afternoon to continue the discussion of subjects before them. These subcommittees will on Thursday join the main committees, which will hold a plenary session as usual in Qiryat Shemona this coming Thursday. These meetings will be attended by all members of the committees and delegations for the purpose of continuing the discussion of the main subjects and possibly a detailed study of them; when agreement is reached on the subjects, they will be referred back to the subcommittees for discussion.

Fattal on Talks

NC011202 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Netanya]

[Excerpts] This is the Information Ministry delegation speaking to you from Netanya to read its third dispatch. At 1315, the subcommittees ended their first meeting and all members went for lunch. The second round of talks will resume this afternoon.

Before the subcommittees began discussing the topics on their agenda, head of the Lebanese delegation Dr Fattal was asked about the work and tasks of the first subcommittee, that is, the subcommittee on withdrawals and security arrangements. He answered that this subcommittee has specific tasks and that other tasks have been added to its original ones after it became clear that there are other aspects indirectly related to it.

In answer to another question, Fattal said: Regarding the final formula for the work of this subcommittee, this was discussed yesterday with Dr Rubinstein in Khaldah. There are still difficulties regarding this issue.

Thus, the first meeting of these subcommittees ended at 1320 today and the meetings will be resumed after lunch this afternoon. We will brief you on the results of these meetings as soon as we receive them. This is the Information Ministry delegation from Netanya. We now return you to our studios in Beirut.

Subcommittees Hold Afternoon Session

NC011438 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1407 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Netanya in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English]

[Text] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Netanya. The subcommittees resumed their afternoon meetings at 3:15 pm in an encouraging and optimist is atmosphere.

The conferees had earlier dealt with the items on the agenda of talks, namely the items on the security arrangements and the question of withdrawals of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

I believe the heads of each subcommittee agreed to put off the agreement on some crucial points to the plenary session, scheduled for Thursday in Qiryat Shemona. We hereby note that the heads of committees had operated side contacts aimed at bridging still existing differences. We also note that Avi Pazner had earlier labeled the first meeting of the subcommittees as a speeding up and intensification of the negotiations. The news that seeped out was that Israel insists on tight security arrangements for southern Lebanon as part of an overall agreement to include a program for complete withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian, and Palestinian forces from our country.

Anyway, awaiting the final communique, we will keep you informed.

PLO OFFICIAL DISCUSSES PRESENCE IN BEIRUT

NC291414 Paris AFP in English 1404 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut, Jan 29 (AFP) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) never reached an agreement with the Lebanese Government, either tacit or official, to close its political bureau here following the departure last year of PLO combatants, a PLO official has said. In an interview appearing today in MAGAZINE, a Lebanese French-language publication, Shafiq al-Hut, head of the PLO office here, said the political bureau is today under the control of the Lebanese Army. He said that while he is anxious to discuss the status of the bureau with Lebanese officials, he understood the government is preoccupied with its efforts to secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the country.

"We respect this state of affairs because we are committed to supporting the Lebanese Government in these efforts," Mr al-Hut asserted. "But secondary problems that are currently in abeyance must not be neglected."

Mr al-Hut has not returned to his office, located in West Beirut, but has been given a headquarters within the Center for Palestinian Studies here.

He said Lebanon "will decide what it wants to do with the Palestinians on its soil. It is the master of its territory and must formulate its own positions. But the Palestinians, for their part, must be able to exercise the rights accorded them as refugees."

He stressed that in his view, "the Palestinians should be treated as guests on the condition that their status conforms to Lebanese law."

Mr al-Hut said he was unable to say how many refugees were still in Lebanon, noting that estimates vary between 250,000 and 750,000.

Last November, he disclosed, the PLO tried through indirect means to obtain statistics from the United Nations on "Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes in 1948 and who are covered by UN Resolution 194, stipulating the right of refugees to go back to their homes and compensation for those who refuse to return."

Mr al-Hut said many of those refugees have since died but added that descendants retain the rights of their forebears.

Lebanese authorities have announced that only those Palestinians who sought refuge in Lebanon in 1948 -- and their descendants -- will be permitted to remain in the country.

Mr al-Hut said the figures of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians are not accurate because many refugees charge that the agency's assistance is insufficient and have refused to deal with it over the years.

SOURCE ON REJECTION OF EARLY WARNING PROPOSALS

NC311922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Excerpts] President Amin al-Jumayyil was tonight briefed by the political operations room and the Lebanese negotiating delegation on what took place today during the 11th round of the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations and on the preparations made for the subcommittees session in Netanya tomorrow.

A Lebanese official source said tonight that Lebanon has emphasized its rejection of the Israeli proposals connected with the early warning stations. Lebanon, he added, reiterated its stand welcoming and appreciating President Reagan's initiative and the U.S. role as a principal negotiator.

The source went on: Several basic issues were explained in this regard, most important being the U.S. relationship to the netotiations and its role in them and Lebanon's stance on the multinational force and the UN emergency forces.

SHAM'UN ATTACKS SHARON ON EARLY WARING STATIONS

NC311246 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un today answered Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. He said: He who alleges he is an extraordinary genius is in any case the wicked genius in the Begin government. Sham'un denounced Sharon's remarks on Lebanon, especially his insistence on setting up early warning stations, even if this means giving Syria similar strategic privileges.

Sham'un said: These remarks have removed all doubt about the duplicitous policy the Israeli Government is pursuing vis-a-vis the Lebanese themselves and vis-a-vis the Lebanese and the Syrians. He added: Sharon has furnished shining proof that Israel seeks only to achieve its private interest at the expense of the interest of Lebanon, its territorial integrity and sovereignty. We are confident that this will portend serious consequences for the ongoing negotiations.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY MAY CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT

NC311431 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] It has been learned from sources close to the government that there is an official tendency to call for a special Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese crisis in its entirety if the U.S. Administration continues to be unable to implement the promises made by U.S. leaders to achieve the withdrawals.

The sources add that Lebanon might give U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his special envoy to the area a period of 1 month before determining the next step. The sources further say that the government might try again to raise the Lebanese problem on the international level and make the world assume its responsibilities on the basis of Lebanon's relations and friendship with the member states of the UN Security Council.

AL-ASAD MEETS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS UNION HEAD

JN301724 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] At 1200 today President Hafiz al-Asad received the International Students Union delegation, lead by (Yeroslav Steveni), head of the union. The meeting was attended by Comrade Hamid Hasan, chairman of the World National Union of Syrian Students. The head of the international students union conveyed to the president the greetings of the conference which was held by the union in Athens in solidarity with the Lebanese and Palestinian people. The head of the union also delivered to the president a message of solidarity with Syria which was issued by the conference and addressed to the president personally.

The head of the International Students Union expressed his great appreciation for the participation of the Syrian Armed Forces in confronting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and in the fighting alongside Palestinian and Lebanese fighters. He also praised Syria's firm and principled stands and its insistence on repulsing the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies.

The president welcomed the delegation of the International Students Union and thanked them for the message of solidarity with Syria, saying: Syria considers such solidarity an important factor in resisting imperialism and Zionism and an element for creating the ability to confront the Zionist and imperialist designs in the region and the world. He added: At a time when we are all concerned about peace in the region and the world, we should bear in mind that the firm, principled stand is the way which will lead to peace, and that any retreat before the imperialists will endanger peace. He also said: The masses are hostile to imperialism. History does not move by itself but it is our action and that conflict with imperialism and Zionism should continue everywhere.

The president emphasized confidence in the future and said: We, in Syria, depend on enlightening and strengthening our masses as well as on our friends in the world, among which are the socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, which support us. He added: We have confidence in the solidarity of our people and in our ability to foil imperialist and Zionist designs.

KHADDAM MEETS WITH PNC SPEAKER KHALID AL-FAHUM

JN302048 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2040 GMT 30 Jan 83

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] In Damascus today 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council speaker. WAFA reported that the discussions during the meeting focused on recent developments in the Palestinian question and in the region's state of affairs, WAFA added that the views were totally identical.

PDRY CHAIRMAN STOPS OVER AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT

GF301740 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, stopped over in Damascus for 1 hour this afternoon on his way to Algeria.

Before continuing his flight to Algeria, the brother secretary general met at Damsscus airport with Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister.

MINISTERS TAKE AL-ASAD MESSAGE TO TEHRAN 31 JAN

JN311526 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jan (SANA) -- Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur will visit Tehran today to deliver a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

IRAQI DELEGATIONS LEAVE DAMASCUS FOR TRIPOLI

JN301528 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jan (SANA) -- The delegations of the Iraqi leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Democratic National and Patriotic Front in Iraq, headed by Fawzi ar-Rawi, member of the party's National Command and of the front leadership, left Damascus today for Libya to attend the emergency meeting of the Arab People's Conference which begins on 1 February in Tripoli.

In a statement before his departure, Comrade ar-Rawi said that the participation of the party and the front with the Iraqi Patriotic Forces presents Iraq's real face and its crucial cohesion with the Arab national liberation movement, especially in these crucial circumstances in which our Arab nation is exposed to the most dangerous reactionary, Zionist, and U.S. imperialist onslaught.

Comrade ar-Rawi indicated that the Iraqi party and front leaderships will explain at the conference the role of Saddam Husayn's regime in betraying Iraq and the Arab nation and how Saddam has volunteered to become a tool to serve imperialist plans in the region.

Comrade ar-Rawi asserted the importance of supporting the Iraqi people and its national forces in their struggle to overthrow this bloody, agent regime so as to return Iraq to its position in the progressive pan-Arab struggle.

AL-AHMAR RECEIVES ELF LEADER 'ABDALLAH IDRIS

JN291424 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] 'Abdalla al-Ahmar, Ba'th party assistant secretary general, this morning discussed with 'Abdallah Idris, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and the ELF Executive Committee, and a number of the ELF Executive Committee members, the Arab situation in general, and the Eritrean issue, in particular, as well as efforts being exerted to unite the Eritrean groups and strengthen the national unity of the revolution's forces.

Comrade al-Ahmar drew attention to the graveness of the conspiracy being hatched by various sides, especially the United States, and the impact of this conspiracy of the Eritrean people. He stressed the importance of confronting these imperialist conspiracies. He also exphasized the Ba'th Party's continued support for the Eritrean people.

Brother Idris praised the stands of the Ba'th party and Syria for their understanding of the nature of the Eritrean issue and for their support and assistance to ELF.

DAMASCUS COMMENTARY ON EARLY WARNING STATIONS

JN281726 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] When Syria voiced its dictum concerning the link between its national and pan-Arab security and the Lebanese national and pan-Arab security and when it emphasized that Syrian and Lebanese security is one, it had in mind more than the close organic ties between the twin countries. Responding to the Israeli intransigence concerning setting up early warning stations in Lebanon, Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim affirmed that the setting up of such stations would gravely harm the security of the region's states, foremost being Syria, pointing out that the confrontation of this aggressive step has gone beyond Lebanese affairs and became a regional affair.

More than a week ago, Israel claimed that the setting up of these stations would be limited in terms of time because it is linked to the reconstruction of the Lebanese Army. This means that Israel wants, from the beginning, to wrest an initial agreement from Lebanon to set up these stations. Once this is achieved, it will move to other new, successive, interlinked stages to strike at Lebanese sovereignty and to end the Lebanese entity. Perhaps the first of these stages lies in Israel's demand to supervise the reconstruction of the Lebanese Army, since it links the removal of the warning stations, which it began to set up on the Lebanese territory, with the process of reconstructing the Lebanese Army. The second stage is that Israel will claim that these stations are necessary for preserving its security. This will enable it to retain these stations along with the forces to run them as well as to maintain the supply routes for these stations which will result in the spread of Israeli presence over all Lebanese territories. The third stage is that Israel will exploit the gains it has achieved during the two previous stages to intensify its military occupation in Lebanon to become an invasion presence, as is the case now.

The setting up of early warning stations moves from aggressive intentions to the scope of a direct practical implementation. This is the beginning of a dangerous stage threatening Lebanese independence, security, and sovereignty. Similarly it is also a new stage which will threaten Syrian national and pan-Arab security as well as the security of the Arab region. Syria will not stand with hands folded toward this dangerous reality and will not let matters take their aggressive course. It will use its energies and capabilities to confront this danger. David Kimche, the head of the Israeli side in the negotiations of Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli Liaison Committee, announced that there are no differences between the United States and Israel concerning the handling of the situation in Lebanon. Does this apply to the aggressive Israeli step when it started to set up an early warning station near the city of Tyre or of the similar aggressive step to set up another station near Qir'awn Lake? The United States has often claimed that it wanted all foreign troops to withdraw from Lebanon. Does the setting up of Israeli early warning stations on Lebanese territories comply with this false claim or with another claim that the United States wants the establishment of a strong regime in Lebanon? Syria in as much as it draws the attention of its Arab brothers to the danger of setting up Israeli early warning stations in Lebanese territories warns of the U.S. role in this very dangerous issue. Naturally, Syria will not only draw the attention to the danger or disclose it, but it will take a decisive and practical stand toward the enemy and its supporters to preserve Arab honor and right for all the sons of the nation without distinguishing between its pan-Arab security and the nation's security, existence, and fate.

ISRAELI, LEBANESE DELEGATIONS END TALKS IN KHALDAH

Press Announcement Issued

TA311525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] At the end of the talks between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations in Khaldah, the Israeli delegation issued an announcement to the press saying that if Lebanon had not surrendered to the Arab countries' pressure, progress could have been made in the talks.

The REUTER news agency correspondent reports that the announcement says that in Israel's view, the normalization of relations with Lebanon was essential for the security of the border and that the Government of Lebanon was opposed to Israel's proposals because of pressure from the Arab countries.

The announcement also says that Israel is concerned about Lebanon's surrender to pressure and dictates from the Arab countries because this could bring down upon Lebanon a period of weakness and instability and an atmosphere of violence and terror. The announcement also reveals that at the beginning of the talks Israel proposed a partial withdrawal by all foreign forces on certain conditions. However, pro-posal was not discussed.

Progress Reported

TA311558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1520 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Progress was achieved today in the Khaldah talks between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports:

At the end of the 11th round of the Khaldah talks, progress was achieved in contacts to bridge the gaps between Israel and Lebanon. This is what deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosi Ami'ul says:

[Begin Ami'ul recording] Today, the subcommittees dealt intensively with the details of the issues on the agenda--with progress, bridging the gaps, and with understanding, understanding of the various points. The subcommittees will meet tomorrow in Netanya. [end recording]

[Einstein] Today's talks opened with exchanges of words between the heads of the delegations from Lebanon and Israel over Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's remarks at the end of last week. Antoine Fattal tried again to emphasize the great importance his government attaches to U.S. involvement in the deliberations and commented that Lebanon regards the United States as a full partner in the negotiations. These re-marks were made in response to Minister Sharon's remarks claiming that a rapid arrangement between two countries could be obtained without intervention from outside. The head of the Israeli delegation, David Kimche, explained to Fattal: Israel has no objections to the U.S. role in the negotiations, that is, Lebanon has no monopoly on friendship with the United States. A source from the Israeli delegation told us: Fattal gave a Lebanese interpretation of statements by Israeli personalities over the media. The United States is the focus of a ping pong [in English]-game of statements: Fattal-Kimche, with Morris Draper listening and keeping quiet.

That was in the plenum. And after a short break, the deliberations were resumed with a meeting between the delegation heads. After that, three subcommittees met and discussed relations between the two countries, the security arrangements, and the end to the state of war. And, as we said, progress was achieved in those deliberations. The subcommittees are to meet again tomorrow in Netanya.

OFFICIAL DENIES STATEMENT ON MULTINATIONAL FORCE

TA311845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] The foreign news agencies quote an Israeli statement they say was issued today at Khaldah. According to the statement, Israel charges that PLO terrorists had been infiltrating the lines of the multinational peacekeeping force and that it was unable to keep the terrorists out. According to the statement, the multinational or UNIFIL forces would also be unable to prevent PLO infiltration in southern Lebanon, and were, therefore, not an answer to Israel's security needs. A Foreign Ministry official in Jerusalem has denied that any such statement has been issued.

NETANYA SUBCOMMITTEE TALKS BEGIN 1 FEBRUARY

TA011019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] The deliberations in the three Israeli-Lebanese subcommittees began in Netanya this morning. Our correspondent Roni Daniyel reported that the Lebanese representatives arrived via three helicopters that landed in an improvised landing pad because of Lebanon's objection to landing in Tel Aviv.

The deliberations will continue until the afternoon hours and will resume tomorrow. The items on the agenda are definition of the security strip, the border crossing points and their opening, and the commercial and economic ties between the two countries.

Delegation Spokesman

TA011153 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1135 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] The subcommittee talks in the negotiations with Lebanon -- the military subcommittee and the one dealing with normalization -- began in Netanya today. Our correspondent Roni Daniyel says the talks are substantive, that the two sides exchanged working papers, and the impression is that there has been an acceleration in the speed of deliberations. Our correspondent talked to the spokesman for the Israeli delegation, Avi Pazner:

[Begin recording] [Pazner] First of all, two subcommittees are sitting today: the political subcommittee discussing the relations between Israel and Lebanon and the military subcommittee discussing security matters and the withdrawal issue.

The political subcommittee on Israeli-Lebanese relations this morning discussed two major issues: liaison offices and the transfer of goods and people.

The military subcommittee today primarily discussed security arrangements.

[Daniyel] Would you describe the talks as leading to agreement, leaving only the technical ways to be found to implement these issues?

[Pazner] Look, it is not so simple. These are long, complex, and tiring negotiations that are not easy. I would say each time we sit with the Lebanese, or nearly each time, some progress is made on the various subjects. However, to say that this is already leading to agreement would be premature. [end recording]

IDF ATTEMPT TO ENTER HAYY AS-SULLUM DENIED

TA010903 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] The IDF spokesman has firmly denied a report broadcast about an hour ago on the Beirut Phalangist radio alleging that an IDF unit crossed the railroad tracks in southern Beirut. According to the broadcast, an IDF unit was attempting to penetrate positions. The IDF spokesman emphasized that our forces are patrolling the axes agreed upon between the IDF and the multinational force and under no circumstances are they crossing the railroad tracks.

NAVON: I DO NOT PLAN TO ENTER POLITICAL LIFE

TA311153 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1142 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Announcement by President Yitzhaq Navon at news conference at presidential residence in Jerusalem -- live]

[Text] As I undertook to do, I am reporting my decision to the public upon the approach of the end of my presidential term.

1. I am not going to ask the Knesset to elect me as president for another term. It is my feeling that I have almost exhausted my duties and I am very doubtful whether I will be able to maintain the same level of activities and freshness required in this post for another 5 years.

2. I do not plan and I do not intend to enter political life.

3. Upon the end of my term, I intend to spend my time writing and being active in social and educational spheres close to my heart.

This is all for the operational part.

I will continue discharging my duties for another few months and the time has not yet come for farewells. However, already at this stage, I feel the need to add something:

I thank God for giving me the exceptional privilege of serving the people as Israeli president. I am grateful to the Knesset members who trusted me and elected me to this high post. They came from both the coalition and the opposition and this fact has always been in my mind. The vast majority of the people of Israel were very gracious to me and lavished me, my wife Ofira, and the members of my family with hearfelt warmth, sympathy, and encouragement.

From the bottom of my loving heart I want to express our deep feelings of gratitude to all the strata of the public for their support for us all along the way. This gratitude will stay with us as long as we live.

Honesty and mutually respectful relations prevailed between me and the prime minister and I thank him for that. The same holds true regarding other Cabinet ministers.

Certainly, I would not be able to properly discharge my duties without my wife who always stood by my side with good advice, consideration, and deeds and without the team at the presidential residence who worked with me faithfully and devotedly. Bless them all.

I did not make my decision lightly or rashly. I know that many citizens will be sorry about my move. I am sorry to disappoint them but I cannot but act according to my own logic and feeling. Any farewell is difficult and all the more so is the farewell from the Presidency. I am taking leave of my post sadly but with no second thoughts. I thank you very much.

PERES RETURNS FROM FRANCE; NO COMMENT ON NAVON

TA010555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Back from a visit to France is Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres. At the Ben-Gurion Airport, he refused to comment on President Navon's decision not to seek another term in office. Peres plans to consult party leaders and Navon himself before saying anything.

Before leaving Paris, the Labor Party leader told a news conference that 1983 will be a crucial year for Middle East peace. He emphasized that negotiations over Lebanon may be resulting in a security zone for Israel. Peres also said that French President Francois Mitterrand told him that he would encourage Jordan to join the peace process without preconditions.

Discussion in Paris

For reportage on Shim'on Peres' discussion in Paris with French President Francois Mitterrand on the Middle East, see the France Section of the 1 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

SHARON DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S., AFRICA

TA281436 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jan 83 pp 5, 18 weekend supplement

[Interview with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon by Yosef Shavit -- date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Hints have recently been heard in Washington about a possible cut in security aid to Israel. Is this serious?

Answer: I hope the United States does not do that. I don't like using the term "strategic asset" because I don't think we are anybody's property. However, the Americans appreciate Israel's importance and contribution. Besides, the United States is the largest democracy in the world and I don't think it will make such a move. It is true that we are at the moment having differences of opinion, but these must not be exaggerated. Things have by no means reached a conflict. We have had differences of opinion with the United States. For many years, from 1948 until 1965, there was a U.S. embargo on Israel. For 10 years, from 1955 until 1965, we stood alone in the face of Soviet expansionism in the Middle East. Things have largely changed since then and the United States has become an important arms supplier of Israel, not out of philanthropy but in view of common interests.

Question: U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger this week said that the security of the Arab states is as important to the United States as that of Israel. Should this not be regarded as an essential change in the U.S. position? The Americans have always declared that Israel's security is in their national interest and they never spoke like this about the Arab states.

Answer: The differences of opinion between us are also reflected in declarations. I know the U.S. secretary of defense very well. You may accept or reject his views, but he is not a man to burst out with uncalculated statements. Here, a few days ago, I heard him talk about the U.S. Marines in Beirut. Whoever listened to him could have received the impression that IDF soldiers were already standing opposite the U.S. soldiers. His description was very exaggerated, blown out of proportion. This is one expression of the differences of opinion. In my opinion, the basic attitude of the United States toward Israel has not changed.

Question: The media have reported that you established excellent relations with Zairian President Mobutu. Weren't you somewhat disturbed by the man's personality and his image as a corrupt dictator?

Answer: Look, the policy of the Israeli Government throughout the years has been to expand relations with other countries. I want to make it absolutely plain that any departure from isolation is a component of Israel's strength. Therefore, just as in the past, the government is making efforts to expand relationships to include as many countries as possible. We cannot judge everybody according to our own standards and criteria. These are different worlds, different countries, different people. Who are those presuming to rule, who is corrupted and who is a saint? All this self-righteousness infuriates me. I remember how Israeli hearts used to beat in the 1960's when they heard two drums beating in Africa during a reception for an Israeli minister. I also remember the festive receptions given to Idi Amin in Israel.

Question: Still, our close relations with Idi Amin harmed Israel's image. Haven't we learned from our past mistakes?

Answer: Under no circumstances would I draw an analogy between Idi Amin and Mobutu. These are entirely different people. However, I don't want to go into that issue. In my opinion, this is not at all important. What is important is Israel's returning to action in Africa....Of course, we would be glad if every country there had the sort of regime we deem right. However, it is not for us to worry about, that is not our duty.

I want to add something about Mobutu: This is a man who displayed independence and courage and who stood behind his words -- and that is something one does not encounter every day, not even in countries regarded by the Western world as enlightened.

Questions: Didn't he appeal to us as a last resort after the Americans turned him down?

Answer: There is a mistake here. Many other countries operate in Zaire. The Americans are training the army and are supplying extensive military aid; France is largely active there as well as Belgium and the PRC. I think there are another six countries involved there, in addition to Israel. Mobutu appealed to us because he has known Israel since he came here as a military officer commanding 220 of his soldiers to take a paratroop course. He knew Israel from the times of close cooperation. There is great appreciation in Zaire of our efficiency and ability.

Question: The statutory commission of inquiry on the massacre in the refugee camps will soon present its findings. Do you sleep well at night?

Answer: I trust the fairness of Israeli justice. It is important to always bear in mind that the deeds were not perpetrated by either the IDF, the State of Israel or the Israeli Government. Those who did it are not sitting in the defendant's chair. I think that everybody must remember this.

COMMENTATOR CALLS FOR TALKING PEACE WITH PLO

TA261827 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jan 83 p 11

[Commentary by Aharon Bakhar: "Peace for the Enemy"]

[Text] Israel has never had as bitter and obstinate an enemy as the PLO. Therefore, there is no other address for the peace efforts. Anwar as-Sadat realized this when he came to Menahem Begin -- to him of all people -- in Jerusalem. He understood that the signature of Golda or Rabin or even both of them would not be binding on Begin. However, Begin's signature would even be binding on Ge'ula Kohen.

Where is the Israeli Anwar as-Sadat?

Our hand has always been stretched out to peace but only and solely to shake our other hand. We have so far invested our best efforts in making peace with ourselves, as if we were the most bitter and obstinate enemy of ourselves. Here and there, we are willing to take into the circle of those who recognize our existence those who have anyway come to terms with it. We have just recently dragged our allies to the negotiating table in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona. Incidentally, we did that without looking too close into their deeds, only with our most bitter enemies we insist on keeping our distance.

Israel has come to terms with the most demonic enemies of the Jewish people. Not even a generation after Auschwitz and Treblinka passed before a German ambassador presented his credentials in Jerusalem to the tones of "Deutschland, Deutschland Uber Alles." Only toward the PLO we insist on pretending that it is an eternal enemy. We refuse to learn the lessons of history: Peoples such as the Germans and the French spilled each others' blood three times in the course of one century until they became allies and the two pillars of the European Community. Yesterday's enemies are tomorrow's friends and peace is only made between enemies.

After all, there is no other choice but to live with and alongside the Palestinians and recognize their national movement even if we do not like it, just as they must recognize the Zionist State of Israel even if Zionism is incompatible with their most cherished dreams.

He who regards peace with our neighboring people as the main goal of Zionism in this generation has no other choice but to meet with Yasir 'Arafat, hear what he has to say, and tell him our message. The PLO is the main enemy and if there is to be any sense to peace, then it must be made with it. And, by the way, this would be neither the first, the second, nor the tenth meeting with him. We have already met him in the battlefields and the question is why shouldn't we meet him at the negotiating table.

Whoever does that would be doing an unprecedentedly patriotic deed because contemporary Zionism has no goal more important and sublime than achieving peace. How many times should we reiterate that peace is not achieved between friends but rather between enemies, and only with them. Whoever brings the enemy, or at least parts of it, to the negotiations table would be the real hero of our war-weary generation. This would be doubly heroic because, given the current mood in this country, such a simple and obvious action -- to attempt a dialogue with our most bitter enemy -- would require extraordinary courage.

The impression created is that the enemy is beginning to sober up from its illusions -- and who does not entertain them. The enemy is beginning to realize that Zionist Israel is a fait accompli with which it will have to come to terms and along which it will have to live. The illusion syndrome has contaminated us. We obstinately want to believe that if we do not recognize the enemy it will disappear by itself.

Official Jerusalem only speaks with those who remind it of Jabotinsky. Therefore, the world sees Israel as somebody talking to itself. How bizarre and sad that his majesty's opposition is also lending a hand. First, they allow their building companies to construct beyond the Green Line and then they say there is nobody to talk to. Thus, they prefer talking to themselves, confident in their belief that the crowds in the squares will love it. Such crowds love characters who talk to themselves.

However, Menahem Begin says he is better than them and as long as Begin exists, who needs them?

It will take some time before people understand that they no longer need either Begin or Peres but instead they need peace. It will take some time until they understand that peace is made only with the enemy and that the more bitter and obstinate the enemy, the sweeter will be the reconciliation.

When the day comes, we will gratefully remember those who established the bridge over the abyss because when peace comes, yesterday's defeatists will be tomorrow's heroes and favorites.

LABOR PARTY URGES NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN

TA301415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] The Labor Party calls on the Israeli Government and King Husayn not to miss the opportunity of launching negotiations. The party's reactions team issued a communique saying that the freeze in the negotiations, which has been felt for a long time, endangers the important achievements of peace with Egypt. The peace process must continue, the Labor Party says, and the condition for that is that Jordan and the Palestinians join the negotiations.

POLL SHOWS SHIFT TO 'MORE MODERATE' POSITION

TA010708 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Feb 83 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv -- There is a shift to the more moderate position among Israelis on territorial compromise over Judaea and Samaria to achieve peace with Jordan.

This is one of the findings of a JERUSALEM POST poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute among a representative sample of 1,929 adults in the last week of December and the first part of January.

Question: "Are you for or against a peace agreement with Jordan involving an Israeli commitment to leave territories in Judaea and Samaria?"

	Jan '83	Sept '82	Aug '82
Against - not an inch	42.4	52.0	45.8
For: parts of Judaea and Samaria	39.8	34.2	40.4
For: All of Judaea and Samaria excluding east Jerusalem	11.8	8.5	9.0
For: All of Judaea and Samaria including east Jerusalem	1.8	2.7	2.0
Undecided	4.2	2.6	1.9

SHAMIR SAYS STOPPING SETTLEMENTS 'INCONCEIVABLE'

TA311101 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Jan 83 p 2

[Report by 'Amos Levav]

[Text] "That we should stop settlements? We? After all, we are now fighting over our eastern border. It is inconceivable that we should stop settling in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza district," Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday, appearing before Likud activists in Hadera.

The minister added that the government was not operating in a vacuum and all its actions in Judaea and Samaria were designed to draw Israel's eastern border on the Jordan river bank. "The Camp David accords are the maximum of our concessions," Shamir added.

The foreign minister said what was happening now in Egypt regarding Israel constituted a reaction to the move of the late President as-Sadat. "I hope that the forces that supported and still support As-Sadat's move will gain the upper hand," Minister Shamir noted. He disclosed that President Mubarak had set a meeting with U.S. Jewish leaders to ask them to exert pressure on Israel. "He ran into a very well briefed group. Instead of heeding his request, they pointedly asked him several questions: Why did you recall the ambassador from Israel? Why did you freeze the autonomy talks? Why are hostile articles published in the Egyptian press?"

Minister Shamir advised the United States not to pressure Israel to conduct negotiations with all the Arab countries in one go but rather separately with every Arab country that is willing to come to the negotiating table without any preconditions.

GENERAL TOURS TABAH AREA; EGYPTIANS 'ANGERED'

TA011136 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1130 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Moshe Levi this morning visited Elat and the Tabah area and angered the Egyptians. Maj Gen Levi arrived in Tabah accompanied by some 20 senior IDF officers, among them the commander of the Southern Command.

Our correspondent has learned that in the course of the visit to Tabah, Maj Gen Levi climbed through a hole in the fence into the demilitarized area and got into the area where the Egyptians tore down the fence some 2 weeks ago. The Egyptian liaison officer did not accompany the deputy chief of staff when he entered the demilitarized area. He was angry and told our correspondent that this is not done.

SAUDI DAILY: ALGERIAN, MOROCCAN LEADERS TO MEET

GF291830 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 27 Jan 83 p 1

["Exclusive" report to KUNA and AL-MADINAH's correspondent Muhammad at-Tantawi]

[Excerpt] Moroccan opposition leader Abderahim Bouabid has announced that a meeting is being prepared between Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II and Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid.

Bouabid, secretary general of the Socialist Union of the Popular Forces, the main opposition party in Morocco, said this meeting will take place on the Algerian-Moroccan border and under the auspices of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Bouabid, however, did not specify a date for this meeting.

In a statement to the KUNA correspondent, Bouabid expressed his support for Saudia Arabia's mediation. We hope Algeria will understand that its future and our is one, he said.

He described the Saudi efforts to end the dispute as good efforts and that these efforts have achieved progress.

LIBYA

ARAB OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS MEET IN TRIPOLI

LD010955 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Feb (JANA) -- The pan-Arab meeting of the opposition and popular movements in the Arab homeland will meet in Tripoli from today, 1 February, through 5 February. The meeting is in response to the pan-Arab initiative by the commander of the Great 1 September Revolution. He had called for a meeting in Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah of the unionist and progressive forces in the Arab homeland in order to draw up a new strategy of struggle capable of facing the military and psychological reality of the Arab world, to enable the Arab nation to halt the Zionist death train -- which is supported by U.S. technology and the finances of Arab reaction, which has surrendered at the Fes summit conference -- and to begin the counteroffensive. The meeting will be attended by the Arab organizations, opposition political forces, and armed struggle movements in the Arab homeland.

Delegations have been arriving for the meeting. Among those who arrived here yesterday were: 'Abd as-Salam Husayn al-'Ansi, the assistant secretary of the organizational committee of the General People's Congress in the YAR; the secretary of the Lebanese fuel workers trade union; the representative of the secretariat general of the grouping of the Jordanian popular forces; the secretary of the Jordanian Bar Association; the secretary general of the National Federation of Lebanese Workers; the secretary of the cultural council of Lebanon; the delegation of the command of the Independent Nasirite Movement -- Al-Murabitun; a representative of the Arab Voice of Lebanon radio; 'Abd ar-Rahim Murad, the secretary general of the Sudanese Democratic Front; the delegation of the Somali National Salvation Front; the delegation of the Palestinian Writers Union; the delegation of the Arab Workers Federation and the delegation of the Kuwaiti Workers Federation; the delegation of the Iraqi Democratic Party; the secretary general of the society "from the Arab people to the American people" and editor in chief of the Tunisian paper AL-MUSTAQBAL.

PDRY, Syrian, Hungarian Delegation

NC291044 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Member of the PDRY Socialist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Popular Control Committee Brother al-Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id arrived in Tripoli yesterday afternoon to participate in the emergency meeting of the Arab people's conference, which will be held in Tripoli from 1 to 5 February.

In a statement to JANA, Brother 'Abdallah Sa'id emphasized the importance of this meeting in serving the basic issues of the Arab homeland. He expressed the hope that the meeting will be crowned with success through its resolutions and recommendations and their implementation on the various levels.

Brother Ahmad al-Halawawi, member of the Syrian Ba'th party command Foreign Relations Bureau and director of the Arab people's conference permanent secretariat bureau in Syria, and Brother Ibrahim al-Ayyubi, secretary of the Basic People's Conference (?in Syria), have also arrived in Tripoli for the same meeting.

Imre Hollai, Hungarian deputy foreign minister and president of the UN General Assembly's 37th session, also arrived in Tripoli at noon yesterday. Imri Hollai expressed his pleasure at visiting the Jamahiriyah and pointed out that his visit comes within the framework of the constant mutual cooperation between the Libyan Arab people and the Hungarian people. He said that he will acquaint himself with the gigantic achievements accomplished by the Al-Fatih Revolution in the various fields.

PFLP's AL-YAMANI CALLS FOR COHESION WITH SYRIA

JN311425 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani], PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PFLP delegation to meetings of the emergency session of the Arab people's conference, has affirmed that Syria has always been the springboard for the liberation of Palestine. He also affirmed that we must bolster our relations with Syria because it represents our starting base.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent in Tripoli, Al-Yamani added that our primary task now is to build Palestinian national unity based on the national program and to deepen the fateful and militant cohesion between Syria and the Palestinian resistance. This is what we seek to achieve because we believe that Syria has a principal role in the liberation process.

He called on the Arab nationalist forces to form a front with the Arab nationalist and progressive regimes to confront the Zionist enemy who covets further expansion and domination of the Arab region. He stressed the importance of the Arab people's emergency conference adoption of resolutions which would place the Arab masses in an effective position to confront imperialist liquidation plans in the Arab region. He said that any leadership that attempts to deviate from the objectives of the Palestinian struggle will be completely rejected by our masses, adding that such leaders would be brought down by these masses, who reject treason and deviation and punish all those who oppose our militant march.

MOROCCO

AFP REPORTS ON PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S VISIT

NC300712 Paris AFP in English 0649 GMT 30 Jan 83

[By Francois Chatel]

[Text] Marrakech, Morocco, Jan 30 (AFP) -- Satisfaction of some Moroccan economic and social requests so as to prevent any further slackening of political ties between France and Morocco to the benefit of the United States was very largely the outcome of President Francois Mitterrand's three-day official visit, which wound up here Saturday night.

Mr Mitterrand himself was very guarded about the political content of his talks with King Hassan. At yesterday's press conference to end the tour, the French leader was asked to comment about the burgeoning links between Rabat and Washington. "That is Morocco's business" was all he would say.

But before the visit began, Mr Mitterrand's official spokesman Michel Vauzelle had openly voiced French concern to see all the countries of the western Mediterranean basin "affirm greater independence with regard to powers outside the region". The atmosphere for the visit was good, and the talks should result in "enlarged, firmer and more diversified" bilateral cooperation, Mr Mitterrand summed up. Concrete points noted by observers included an undertaking to examine Morocco's request for one or more nuclear power plants for use in desalination of sea water. The requisite uranium would come from Morocco's own particularly abundant phosphate deposits. The technology involved would be complicated and costly.

Morocco is additionally asking France to buy a further 1.5 million tons of phosphate, beyond the some four million tons currently purchased. A fall in the world market price is a prime factor in Morocco's serious economic difficulties, which have been aggravated by two consecutive years of drought and the continuing armed conflict with the Algerian-backed Polisario liberation front over Western (ex-Spanish) Sahara.

Mr Mitterrand promised that a solution would shortly be found to the vexed issued of restrictions on the entry of Moroccans to France. The clampdown is part of security measures at the French border against people arriving from the Arab world in general.

Mr Mitterrand said he would invite western Mediterranean countries and Greece to look into the "difficult problems" posed by forthcoming Spanish and Portuguese membership of the European Common Market. Morocco is much concerned, since despite a treaty of association with the Common Market, its citrus and textile interests have received a severe mauling.

The proposed meeting is probably not unrelated to Mr Mitterrand's policy goal of seeing the Mediterranean become a "lake of peace", a major theme he developed during his visit. For that to be achieved, it is indispensable that regional misunderstandings cease. Their persistence could only benefit the superpowers, as presidential spokesman Vauzelle noted in the pre-trip briefing.

Without putting himself forward as a mediator, Mr Mitterrand has accordingly declared himself to be "at the disposal" of Morocco and Algeria should they request his intervention to facilitate a settlement of the Saharan dispute pitting them against each other.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMARYI RETURNS FROM U.S., UK VISITS

JN301552 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Jan (SUNA) -- President Numaryi returned home from the British capital, London, this evening following a private visit to the United States during which he underwent routine medical tests. These tests showed that President Numayri is in good health. Following the tests, President Numayri met with several ranking U.S. officials.

President Numayri held similar discussions with British officials in London. On Monday he met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. It is noteworthy that President Numayri left for the United States at the beginning of January.

Numayri Interviewed by BBC

JN281124 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] London, 28 Jan (SUNA) -- In an interview with the BBC yesterday, President Numaryi dealt with a number of Arab and African issues.

Asked about future relations between Sudan and Libya, Numayri said relations with Libya will continue to be cool as long as Libya has evil intentions toward Chad. He added: Libya interfered militarily in Chad. We resisted this interference and we will resist it again if Libya interferes in Chad.

President Nymayri emphasized that Sudan wants the Chadian people to rule themselves. They are a free people and, therefore, must choose their own rulers, he said.

Asked about future relations with Libya if the latter does not interfere in Chad, President Numayri said relations with Libya would be those of neighbors unless Libya decided to interfere in Sudan's affairs by preventing it from expressing its opinion on the Arab cause, which we believe should be solved peacefully through negotiations.

Regarding the Middle East question, the Camp David line, and the Fes summit resolutions, President Numayri said that he does not believe that there is any conflict between Camp David and the Fes resolutions. The only conflict is in the method of reconciling the resolutions and Camp David. Referring to the Fes summit, President Numayri said that Egypt did not isolate itself from the Arabs and did not want to fight the Arabs. It only wanted to sincerely serve the Arabs by achieving peace in the region.

LEBANESE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN KHARTOUM 30 JAN

JN311205 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Jan (SUNA) -- A Lebanese parliamentary delegation led by former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid as-Sulh arrived here last night in the course of a tour of a number of states in the region.

On arrival, As-Sulh expressed hope that Arab and Lebanese efforts will be pooled to save Lebanon from the Israeli occupation. The former prime minister also said that he is carrying a message from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to President Numaryi on the Arab and Lebanese situations.

'OUTLAWS' KILL 13 CITIZENS IN SOUTHERN REGION

JN281122 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Juba, 28 Jan (SUNA) -- In a statement issued yesterday in the name of the regional government, Engineer James Joseph Tombura, chairman of the Higher Executive Council in the southern region, condemned the barbaric attack carried out by a group of outlaws on 18 January at the (Aryath) railroad station in the Uwayl region and in which 13 innocent citizens fell victim.

The chairman called on the citizens to cooperate with the security forces in its search for the group.

TUNISIA

YASIR 'ARAFAT RETURNS TO TUNIS 31 JANUARY

LD311143 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Tunis, 31 Jan (TAP) -- Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat this morning returned to Tunis after a tour during which he visited the PDRY, Saudi Arabia, and the YAR.

It is expected that Yasir 'Arafat will meet Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, who is currently on an official visit to Tunisia that will continue until tomorrow, Tuesday.

AL-WAZZAN HOLDS TALKS IN TUNIS, TO SEE 'ARAFAT

NC311302 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Radio correspondent's dispatch from Tunis -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] It has become certain that a meeting will be held between Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in the Tunisian capital this morning. The meeting, of course, will take place under the auspices of Tunisian officials.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sahfiq al-Wazzan has held a round of talks with his Tunisian counterpart, Mohamed Mzali, in the Government House in the city center. This meeting was attended by Lebanese and Tunisian foreign ministers Dr Elie Salim and Beji Caid es-Sebsi, in addition to the ambassadors of Lebanon in Tunis and the Tunisian ambassador to Lebanon.

The talks, which lasted 2 hours, dealt with the various subjects of interest to the two countries, particularly regarding the current stage. The following is Prime Minister al-Wazzan's statement after the meeting:

[Begin recording] Actually, our talks were not confined to the subject of the Palestinian withdrawal. We are working to remove the Israeli occupation from our land. We think that this Israeli withdrawal will be good not only for Lebanon but for all the Arabs. When Lebanon is well, be sure that the Arabs will also be well; when Lebanon is in trouble, the Arabs will also be in trouble, God forbid.

Of course, there are many aspects to our Lebanese issue, including those which pertain to relations with the Palestinian brothers. All this was discussed in detail and in depth. We also discussed many important details not only as far as we are concerned in Lebanon but also as far as the Palestinian issue is concerned. We have patronized this issue and will continue to patronize it.

[Question] [Words indistinct] great progress. What is hindering this progress?

[Answer] Two things are hindering these negotiations: the first is our adherence to our right and our national sovereignty and our rejection of everything that detracts from this and from our national dignity and sovereignty. They are also being hindered, on the other hand, by Israeli ambitions in Lebanon. Israel depends on the element of time and the Arab disputes which it sees are prevailing. We must all act in a manner that will help Lebanon and take away from the Israeli hand the weapon it is resorting to.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, have your talks dealt with information coordination with the Tunisian Government?

[Answer] Although we believe in complete freedom, which we adhere to in our country, and in the freedom of opinion, we also feel that there is also freedom in dear Tunisia, which is taking its course. However, I would like to sincerely say that we must immunize this freedom -- in Lebanon and in all the Arab states -- with responsible opinion and awareness. We are facing a vicious enemy doing its best to cause a rift among us. We must not fall in the trap of contradictions, disputes, plots, visualizations, and exaggerations. Our views are clear and our positions are clear. It has become clear to all Arabs that they are passing through the most serious stage of their modern history. It is time for them to understand that their strongest weapon is the weapon of solidarity. Let them return to this weapon and then they can regain their dignity not only in Lebanon but over every inch of Arab territory.

JOINT STATEMENT ON VISIT BY AUSTRIA'S PAHR

LD311724 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Tunis, 31 Jan (TAP) -- A joint Tunisian-Austrian statement issued after the official visit to Tunisia by Austrian Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr from 27 to 29 January emphasizes the concern of the two countries over the crisis in the Middle East caused by the continuing expansionist policy of the Israeli Government. They strongly condemned the invasion of Lebanon by the Israeli army and stressed the need to respect the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon. The two sides denounced Israel's annexation of the Golan and east Jerusalem, its usurpation of the people's rights, and its policy of faits accomplis. The two delegations again expressed their conviction that a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East dispute will not be realized without Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, including east Jerusalem, and the recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state. They expressed their support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Austrian side pointed out that it has positively assessed the Fes summit plan, which reflects Arab determination to find a just and lasting solution to the Middle East dispute. On the situation in southern Africa, the two sides strongly condemned the racist policy of the Pretoria regime and its occupation of Namibia. They expressed dissatisfaction with the continuation of the Iraq-Iran conflict and support for the peace initiatives based on international resolutions. The two sides showed concern about the suffering of peoples in Asia, especially those of Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

On cooperation between Tunisia and Austria, the two ministers noted the contribution of Austrian companies to the implementation of the sixth development plan in Tunisia. The two ministers discussed the developing trade between Tunisia and Austria and the possibility of enhancing it with the aim of achieving a better balance of trade.

CAMEROON

AHIDJO REJECTS IDEA OF DUALISM IN INTERVIEW

AB311859 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] The chairman of the Cameroon National Union Party, Ahmadou Ahidjo, has declared that the party conceives the fundamental national development options of the country and the government's duty is to apply and execute these options.

In a most revealing interview since leaving the presidency of the republic, Chairman Ahidjo told the semiofficial daily CAMEROON TRIBUNE that His Excellency Paul Biya is the head of state with all the prerogatives due the post, adding that there isn't and can be no rift between the party and the executive. Rather, he added, there is a symbiotic and complementary relationship between the two.

Great Comrade Ahidjo said about disruptive rumors concerning so-called dualism in terms of the power structure in this country that these are baseless and disruptive allegations coming from frustrated civil servants and from politicians who wish to avenge themselves, including those who are jealous of His Excellency Paul Biya and wish to see him fail in his duties as head of state.

The party leader said these rumors also emanate from ignorant foreigners who would like to bring Cameroon back to the unfortunate past and are determined to continue to divide and rule. Chairman Ahidjo said he resigned as head of state to take a legitimate rest after more than 25 years of exercising the exacting duties demanded of a head of state. He said in 1975 he had tried to step down at the Douala congress of maturity, and again in 1980, at the Bafoussam congress of the mastery of development. But he had to yield to the wishes and supplications of friends, militants, and the population. Chairman Ahidjo said he is in perfect health, contrary to the speculation and the wishes of some that he died soon after leaving the presidency of the republic.

Concerning the new prestigious presidential unity palace, whose construction Chairman Ahidjo personally supervised, the party leader said he knew from the onset that he wouldn't stay in it, but added that the palace was never designed for him, but for the honor and prestige of the Cameroonian people and would remain the property of all Cameroonians.

CHAD

OVER 5,000 ARRIVE IN NDJAMENA FROM NIGERIA

AB301014 Paris AFP in French 1443 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 29 Jan (AFP) -- During the past 3 days, more than 5,000 Chadians have arrived in Ndjamena following the Nigerian decision to expel all "illegal" workers from the country. On their arrival in the Chadian capital, the immigrants were led to the central police station where they were "registered" before dispersing into the town, to look for accommodations. Several people spent the night at the police station while waiting for a solution to their case as there is an accommodation shortage in the capital.

Most of the refugees only carried bundles or traveling bags. "We were taken by surprise by the decision to leave Nigeria and we abandoned or sold our properties at give-away prices," they said, looking bewildered. Some of them settled in Nigeria 30 years ago.

In Ndjamena, the social reintegration of the newly arrived people is viewed with a certain apprehension by officials. "If nothing is done immediately to ease the reintegration of the expelled persons into the great Chadian family, it is feared that Ndjamena could experience renewed cases of theft and delinquency," the Chadian news agency ATP wrote on Saturday. According to reports, a "significant" number of Chadians, expelled from Nigeria, have arrived in Lere, in the south of Chad. According to ATP, more than 700,000 Chadians are living in Nigeria.

BENIN

KEREKOU RECEIVES GHANA'S INTERIOR MINISTER

AB311621 Paris AFP in French 1548 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Cotonou, 31 Jan (AFP) -- President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin recieved on Monday in audience Johnny Hansen, the Ghanaian minister of interior, who arrived in Cotonou at the head of a large delegation. The Ghanian delegation, accompanied by Colonel Kerekou and representatives of Nigeria and Ghana in Benin, visited the three border posts between Benin and Nigeria.

"I came to Benin on behalf of the people of Ghana and President Jerry Rawlings to express our gratitude for the continuous help being given by the Beninese people, its government and president of the people of Ghana at this time of crisis," stated the Ghanaian minister to the press.

Asked about the delay by the authorities in reopening the Aflao border post the Ghanaian minister restated Ghana's desire to fight against "the smuggling of agricultural produce likely to sabotage our national economy." This delay is partly due to rumors that some people were going to infiltrate into the country in order to destabilize President Rawlings' regime, he added in conclusion.

Visit Border Posts

AB010650 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Excerpt] President Kerekou this morning visited the Igolo and Krake border posts. The Ghanaian nationals are returning home. The evacuation exercise is continuing.

Our country is making great efforts to facilitate such operations. In this connection, the Ghanaian secretary of the interior arrived in our country, the People's Republic of Benin. After the audience granted him by the president of the republic, the Ghanaian minister went with President Kerekou to the Benin-Nigeria border at Igolo and Krake. Among members of the delegation were several Beninese ministers, including the minister of the interior and public security, as well as the prefect of Oueme Province. The Ghanaian and Nigerian ambassadors also took part in the visit.

Both at Igolo and Krake, Comrade Johnny Hansen advised his fellow countrymen and gave them assurances that measures have been taken in Ghana to recieve them and to resettle them in Ghanaian society. Each of you is part of Ghana and will remain part of Ghana; so the nation relies on you to recover its rightful place in the community of nations, Mr Johnny Hansen said. He particularly emphasized the dynamic humanitarian action by President Kerekou. You must be grateful to him, he said. Ghana will remain grateful to him. Let us all at the same time now hail him loudly. [noise from the crowd]

GHANA

REPORTS ON EFFECTS OF NIGERIA'S QUIT ORDER

Another 150,000 Leave Nigeria

AB311822 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] The deadline set by the Nigerian authorities for all illegal immigrants to leave Nigeria expires at midnight tonight and with barely some few hours left to the time limit, unconfirmed reports have it that as many as 150,000 Ghanaians have left Nigeria for home.

It is estimated that there were more than a million Ghanaians resident in Nigeria before the expulsion order was made. News agency reports say two ships from Ghana have docked at Lagos harbor to ferry home some of the Ghanaians due for repatriation. A third ship is expected to dock again at Lagos later in the day.

Deportees 'Very Desperate, Wild'

AB311830 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Aflaq, the country's main eastern gateway, today experienced what is believed to be the heaviest ever human and vehicular movement as hundreds of thousands of Ghanaian deportees beseiged the town when they crossed the border to beat the deadline set by the Nigerian Government to return home. At one time it appeared as if police had lost control in directing traffic as streets became virtually nonexistent because of the influx. Almost every minute, vehicles loaded with the deportees were seen crossing the border. Food has become very scarce at Aflao. The deportees, out of exhaustion and hunger, are becoming very desperate and wild. It is believed that it may take a few weeks to evacuate them from Aflao if the response to the government's appeal to transport owners continues to be unfavorable. Four deaths have been reported unofficially so far, two of them said to be out of exhaustion. Meanwhile, it is reported that those from coastal towns are hiring local boats and canoes for the journey to their destinations.

Beatings by Nigerians

AB011110 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Krake, Benin-Nigeria border, Feb 1 (AFP) -- Jerry and Eric have nothing left but their clothes and their smiles.

They are both Ghanaians, electricians who had been working in the Nigerian capital Lagos. They left Lagos two days ago with thousands of their compatriots in compliance with Nigeria's quit order issued two weeks ago to illegal immigrants.

They crossed into Benin at Krake, the main southern border post with Nigeria, just before the deadline expired at midnight last night.

Jerry and Eric are both 27 years old. They left Tamale, in northern Ghana, three years ago to work with a construction company in Nigeria. It took only a few hours for them to lose everything they had.

Hanging on to the back of the crowded minibus which brought them from Nigeria, Jerry said: "The police came 10 days ago to order us to leave Nigeria. We tried to hide, but some Nigerians beat us and took all our money. We only managed to leave Lagos because some other Ghanaians lent us a few nairas (the Nigerian currency) to pay the fare home."

Both Jerry and Eric expressed relief at their arrival in Benin.

"We are safe now," Eric said. "Here we have nothing to fear. In Nigeria the police and the soldiers did not behave badly, but some civilians wanted to kill us."

Lorries, trailers and small trucks were still crossing the border during the night. But traffic was moving easily, and the huge parking area which only 24 hours ago was overflowing with refugees in makeshift shelters was virtually deserted.

Most of the deportees had already taken off to continue their 500 km (300 miles) westwards journey from Lagos to Accra, Ghana, through Benin and neighbouring Togo.

Overloaded vehicles creaked off down the road to Togo, avoiding the empty trucks which were racing back in the opposite direction looking for more passengers.

In the middle of refuse abandoned by the departing refugees one man seemed to be asleep on the back of an old lorry. Three Beninese police on patrol in the parking area go to wake him up and move him on, but it was a waste of time. He was stabbed to death not long before, probably by a fellow Ghanaian who needed just a bit more money to meet his own survival needs.

NIGERIA

REGISTRATION OF ALIENS BEGINS NEXT MONTH

AB311601 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] The registration of all aliens in Nigeria is to begin next month. Centers for the exercise are in Badagry and the immigration headquarters in Ikoyi. The director of the Immigration Department, Mr Lawal Sambo, who disclosed this in Lagos today, explained that the registration will affect all categories of aliens, including those who came into the country before the 1963 immigration law. As regards the difficulties some of the aliens were facing in their efforts to comply with the quit order, Mr Sambo gave the assurance that the Federal Government should soon come to the aid of such victims. He called on Nigerians to come forward to fill the vacuum the illegal aliens had created in the labor sector. This, he said, would show the outside world that Nigerians were capable of building their nation on their own. The director announced that men of the Immigration Department and the police force would start visits to hotels and catering houses tomorrow to arrest and prosecute illegal aliens who had refused to leave the country at the expiration of the quit order. The 2-week ultimatum expires tonight.

ANGOLA

UN SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS FOR OFFICIAL TALKS

Report on Arrival

AB311725 Paris AFP in French 1637 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Launda, 31 Jan (AFP) -- Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, arrived in Luanda on Monday in the early afternoon. The entire Angolan Government was at the 4 February Airport awaiting his arrival. The UN secretary general, who is accompanied by his wife and a UN delegation, was met on arrival by the minister of the interior, Lieutenant General Alexandre Rodrigues "Tito," representing the head of state. Mr Rodriques "Tito," who is considered by observers as one of President dos Santos' most trustworthy assistants, led the Angolan delegation to Praia, Cape Verde Islands, during the first direct talks between Pretoria and Luanda.

On Monday afternoon, Mr Perez de Cuellar will meet President dos Santos, official talks will then be held between the UN representative and an Angolan Government delegation composed of the minister of the interior; Minister of State Security Colonel Dino Matross; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Paulo Jorge, according to Angolan sources. According to the same sources, the talks will be mainly on the Namibian issue.

On Tuesday morning Mr Perez de Cuellar will receive a SWAPO representative, David Merorjn, as well as an ANC leader before leaving Luanda for Lusaka, Zambia.

AFP on Talks

AB010643 Paris AFP in English 0406 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Luanda, Feb 1 (AFP) -- Independence for neighbouring Namibia was the main topic at talks here Monday between Angolan minister and United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, an authroitative source said.

Mr Perez de Cuellar, starting a seven-country African tour, first had a meeting with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The Angolan delegation included Security Minister Dino Matross, Interior Minister Alexandre Rodrigues, and Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge, plus officers and civil servants from the president's office, the source said.

Observers noted that the Angolan team comprised mainly military officers, including the security and interior ministers.

Mr Perez de Cuellar was accompanied at the talks, which the source specified as dealing with "decolonisation" of Namibia, by the U.N. Commissioner for Namibia, Martti Ahtisaari of Finland.

The state news agency, terming the visit "prestigious", gave prominence in its reports to an interview in a Portuguese newspaper yesterday with Mr Perez de Cuellar in which he affirmed there was no link between the issue of Namibian independence and the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

The United States and South Africa insist there is, but the secretary-general, who reiterated his views during a stopover in Senegal before arriving here, said the relevant U.N. resolution made no mention of the troops issue.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON CUBAN PRESENCE

EA291600 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Angola has remained in a state of war since the onset of armed struggle. This was said by Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge, speaking at a press conference following of the meeting of the IOJ [International Organization of Journalists] presidium which ended in Luanda today. Paulo Jorge reiterated his country's rejection of the U.S. proposal for withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as a precondition for the independence of Namibia.

When the danger of aggression against Angola has disappeared, the Angolan and Cuban Governments will draw up a program for the reduction of troops in our country, the Angolan foreign minister added.

SOUTH AFRICA

OPPOSITION LEADER INTRODUCES NO CONFIDENCE MOTION

MB311804 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, the leader of the official opposition, says the most dangerous external situation for South Africa would be for the country to be surrounded by a group chronically unstable and impoverished neighboring territories casting their eyes desperately to the superpowers for help. Introducing a motion of no confidence in the government in the House of Assembly, Dr Slabbert said it made commonsense that economic interdependence and expertise had to lead to greater stability in the region and to the long-term benefit of all countries involved.

He added that the prime minister had stated repeatedly that the South African government has no aggressive intentions and that the country is willing to play a stabilizing role in southern Africa. However, South Africa is perceived by its neighbors and also by potential allies to be playing exactly the opposite role. He pointed out that South Africa has been accused of deliberately pursuing a policy of destabilization towards its neighbors by the use of economic, military, transportation, and trade means. He said it is in the country's interests to see that the legacy of the era perceived to be increased destabilization in southern Africa with South Africa portrayed as the main culprit. Referring to the Seychelles affair, Dr Slabbert said there are many questions that still must be answered. Among these are whether Martin Dolincek was in the employ of the national intelligence service when the raid took place. What was the involvement of certain defense force personnel, and how was it possible for Mike Hoare to draw weapons from a defense force store without authorization?

Dr Slabbert also accused the government of arrogance and insensitivity in its handling of the Ingwavuma/Kangwane land deal, saying that the damage to relations remains incalculable.

MNR REPORTEDLY RELEASES FRENCH ENGINEERS

MB311208 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Mozambique Movement, Dr (Ivo Fernandez), has announced in Lisbon that the two French engineers who were kidnapped by the movement 5 weeks ago have been released. He said two men, Mr Robert Soumillion and Mr George Ferret, were freed yesterday evening in the border area near the Malawian police post at Caia and that both are in good health.

Earlier reports said that the French Government had negotiated through the Red Cross for the release of the two engineers. The construction of an electricity network in northern Mozambique has been delayed for the past 5 weeks because the French-Italian consortium decided that the two engineers had to be released before work could continue. The consortium also asked for greater military protection.

FOREIGN MINISTER REACTS TO ZIMBABWEAN CHARGES

MB300527 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] The South African Press Association reports that the minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, has rejected allegations that South Africa is planning to destabilize Zimbabwe. Mr Botha said in Cape Town that the Mugabe regime should pay attention to the inherent destabilizing factor in the system in Zimbabwe instead of making unfound accusations against South Africa.

Mr Botha was reacting to claims made by the Zimbabwe minister of state security, Mr Munangagwa, at a recent seminar in Harare. Mr Munangagwa said that South Africa was planning to attack and sabotage targets in Zimbabwe, and black and white soldiers were being trained for this purpose at Letaba.

PAPER ON FUTURE OF REAGAN, RELATIONS WITH U.S.

MB311722 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 27 Jan 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Reagan and South Africa"]

[Text] The details of the speech made by President Reagan yesterday evening in the American Congress, the so-called State of the Union message, which can be compared to the South African president's opening of Parliament, does not affect South Africa immediately or directly. What really affects us directly is that it is the speech of a man whose political future, together with that of his party, has become obscure.

The Reagan administration has brought about drastic changes in American policy toward South Africa and southern Africa in general. The strong pressure on South Africa has eased, and he has been afforded the opportunity to bring about, in his own way, change which would make it more difficult for future American administrations and other Western countries to continue an uncompromising attitude.

Now 2 of the 4 years for which President Reagan was elected have passed. The congressional elections last year have greatly weakened his position already, and as things now stand, it seems that he -- if he makes himself available for reelection -- and his party will fare even worse in the November 1984 election. For South Africa it could have far-reaching effects. One of the strongest contenders for the Democratic Party's presidential candidacy next year is Mr Walter Mondale, who as vice president under Mr Jimmy Carter advocated the concept of one man, one vote.

The weakening of President Reagan's position can be ascribed so far mainly to the failure of his economic policy. He lowered taxes to let the economy recover, and he simultaneously increased defense spending. He and his administration have argued that the economic recovery would have caused federal revenue to increase to such an extent that the higher defense spending would have been tolerable.

However, economic recovery has been delayed, unemployment has increased alarmingly and the budget deficits have increased to heretofore unknown heights. This has led to a sharp increase in interest rates that not only seriously retarded the American economy but also the economies of other countries.

From this stems the impression which, justly or unjustly, has taken root in obviously wide circles that the Reagan administration has retreated in disorder. It creates a somber image of the future for the president and his party, as it also can for South Africa in the long term. For this country it depends on what use will be made of the remaining 2 years before America elects another president.

ZIMBABWE

PRIME MINISTER MUGABE REPORTS ON 10-DAY TOUR

MB281731 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, says his 10-day visit to Algeria, Malta, and Tanzania helped to consolidate Zimbabwe's relations with these countries.

Comrade Mugabe told newsmen on his return today in Harare that his discussions with the leaders of these countries have an economic and political influence. He said President Bendjedid of Algeria and himself expressed concern at the current misunderstanding between African leaders. Comrade Mugabe has proposed that a group of people should meet to iron out such differences before the holding of the nonaligned conference in New Delhi in March.

The prime minister expressed hope that an oil agreement signed with Algeria will enable Zimbabwe to receive a constant flow of fuel. In Malta, Comrade Mugabe noted that the Maltese Government is willing to train more Zimbabweans in various fields.

The Tanzanians gave the Zimbabweans a grand welcome. President Nyerere and Comrade Mugabe expressed the need for furthering relations between the two countries. Comrade Mugabe criticized the Western press for giving false reports about the development in Tanzania, emphasizing that there was more development now than what he had seen when he first visited the country in 1962. The two leaders called on liberation movements in southern Africa to intensify their struggle against the racist government in Pretoria. They reiterated that the issue of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola should not in any way be linked with attainment of independence in Namibia. They noted that self-sustaining economies and social progress in Africa can only be achieved through regional cooperation such as the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. During his visit, Comrade Mugabe was accompanied by five government ministers.

MINISTER CITES SOUTH AFRICAN SABOTAGE PLANS

MB290600 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] The Pretoria regime is planning to send groups of saboteurs to attack targets inside Zimbabwe.

Announcing this yesterday, the minister of state responsible for security, Comrade Munangagwa, said the saboteurs, who were trained at Letaba military base, were taught American-style guerrilla warfare. Comrade Munangagwa said the mercenary groups will include blacks and whites and will have Zimbabwean maps as well as access to military uniforms similar to that of the Zimbabwe National Army. The minister disclosed that the Pretoria regime set up another group of rebels under the name of Matabele Brigade in order to take advantage of the banditry situation in the western part of the country. Comrade Munangagwa added that the Pretoria regime has intensified its campaign to recruit Zimbabwean nationals for subversive military training. The minister accused those Zimbabweans on the South African payroll for the purpose of attacking their country and described them as selfish and misguided elements.

FURTHER DETAILS ON NKOMO ALLEGATIONS CITED

AB290753 Paris AFP in English 0415 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Harare, Jan 29 (AFP) -- Opposition leader Joshua Nkomo called on the government of Zimbabwe Friday to halt what he called the "carnage" of innocent civilians being carried out by security forces for political and tribal reasons in Matabeleland, in the west of the country.

At a press conference here, he said that 47 and possibly as many as 95 people had been killed in the province last weekend because they could not tell the whereabouts of armed dissidents. Because reports were still coming in, it was impossible to give an exact number for those killed, he said.

The leader of the minority Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) said that he saw Vice-Prime Minister Simon Muzenda Thursday night to ask him to stop the killings.

But in a report by the official ZIANA News Agency, a government spokesman last evening rejected Mr Nkomo's allegations as a "load of rubbish".

The agency also contradicted Mr Nkomo's claim that among the dead were the former president of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia in 1979, Josiah Gumede, and his wife and children. ZIANA said it had contacted Mr Gumede at his Bulawayo home by telephone yesterday afternoon.

Mr Gumede was titular president in the government of Prime Minister Bishop Abel Muzorewa while former white Premier Ian Smith still held the real power.

The situation in Matabeleland, said Mr Nkomo, "reminds us of the days of Ian Smith's regime", when his ZAPU forces and those of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) fought the troops of the white minority administration.

According to the veteran nationalist leader, the death of 47 people in the Inyati, Nkyai, Bembezi and Tsholotshlo rural areas at the weekend had been confirmed. The figure of 1[illegible] given by ZAPU MP's in Parliament on Wednesday was "unfortunately an understatement", he said.

Mr Nkomo said the massacres took place when the security forces asked local people: "Where are the dissidents?" "The people said 'we don't know', then the shooting began."

The dissidents, for the most part former ZAPU guerrillas, have been responsible for dozens of murders in Matabeleland since Mr Nkomo was sacked from the government in February last year, accused in connection with arms being cached -- allegedly for a coup against Mr Mugabe's administration.

The government has accused ZAPU of manipulating the dissidents which Mr Nkomo denies.

At the press conference, Mr Nkomo laid special blame on police "support units" of the Army's Fifth Brigade. Unlike the rest of the British-trained Army, the brigade has been trained by North Korean advisers and is regarded by the opposition as Mr Mugabe's "Praetorian guard".

Units of the brigade are engaged against dissidents in Matabeleland alongside thousands of soldiers and police. At the beginning of the week, the authorities re-introduced a curfew in a 35,000-sq-km area in the province north of Bulawayo.

Mr Nkomo also read a statement from a teacher present at the press conference, according to whom three people officially killed in an "exchange of fire" were in fact shot down in cold blood by soldiers in the sight of villagers, after being beaten.

That incident took place on January 15 near Gweru, in central Zimbabwe.

On his meeting with Mr Muzenda, Mr Nkomo said that the vice-prime minister "appeared quite disturbed".

Mr Nkomo said he believed the government "will do its best to stop the carnage as quickly as possible before irreparable damage is done to our country and our people."

Mr Muzenda, who is also ZANU vice-president, has been acting head of government during a trip abroad by Mr Mugabe, who returned to Harare yesterday.

Mr Nkomo said the repression had political and tribal causes.

They were political in that the soldiers were abusing civilians in Matabeleland, from which ZAPU has traditionally drawn its support, accusing them of having encouraged the dissidents and reproaching them for not joining ZANU.

They were tribal in that soldiers of the Shona tribe, in a majority in Zimbabwe, had told the minority Ndebele of the region that they would "teach them a lesson", the ZAPU leader said.

Replying in Parliament on Wednesday to the accusations of ZAPU MP's, Minister of State for Defence Sydney Sekeramayi said it was "outrageous and untrue to say people are being killed like chickens" in Matabeleland, but he announced the opening of an inquiry.

Stressing that it was not policy to mistreat the civilian population, but on the contrary to protect people from the dissidents, Mr Sekeramayi added that if the security forces did not receive cooperation from people in its fight against the dissidents, it was inevitable that the Army would "use screening methods which could cause the public inconvenience."

After the kidnapping by dissidents of six foreign tourists (two British, two American and two Australian) last July, a British television crew filmed soldiers beating up suspects, and the authorities have since stressed they quickly stopped such excesses.

But a nurse working in a village south of Bulawayo has told of treating civilians who said they had been beaten, raped and even given electric shock treatment by the security forces.

The pro-government Bulawayo newspaper THE CHRONICLE hailed the inquiry into the alleged murder of civilians announced by Mr Sekeramayi.

"The investigation to be initiated by Commander Sekeramayi will hopefully exonerate them (the Army). Should, however, it be found that some security force members have overstepped their authority, they must be brought before the courts as would any other offender..." it said.

"Weeding out dissidents in vast tracts of Matabeleland is an unenviable task. Ultimate success can only be achieved by winning the hearts and minds and the support of the local population. Antagonising them could have serious consequences."